

PRESS RELEASE

ENGLISH

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AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD IN THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN LOUVAIN UNIVERSITY AND LIST

On Thursday, 16 March 2017, the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST) and the prestigious Belgian research institution Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL) officially signed a cooperation agreement.

LIST and UCL agreed on a collaborative research approach in the fields of life and environmental sciences and technologies as well as in data processing, modelling and visualization.

The agreement provides for the exchange of research staff, preparation of joint publications, fostering knowledge in the field of life and environmental sciences and technologies, as well as onsite visits and access to the premises of each respective Partner.

The signature is an important step, deepening a collaboration launched successfully almost thirty years ago.

Dr. Lucien Hoffmann, Director at the ERIN department hailed this signing as such after presenting LIST to the audience gathered for the occasion.

"We do not start from scratch," he said, "since many projects have already been jointly carried out by our researchers, for example the energy recovery of biomass, or the understanding of the mechanisms implemented in the formation of the plant wall, to name but a few examples".

Scientists from both institutions are ambitious: developing a thematic doctoral school, organizing summer courses, coordinating the acquisition of new equipment, and broadening the scope of the themes addressed jointly.

A theme has already been explored in collaboration but work on it will be facilitated and deepened thanks to the new LIST-UCL convention: the development of new applications for plant fibers whose use has until recently been confined to textiles and paper. By studying how the fiber develops in the plant and by seeking to improve its properties, LIST and UCL researchers are developing new fertilization techniques involving the use of natural compounds such as silicon.

These innovative strategies will make it possible to obtain new fibers, which are at the same time more flexible, lighter and more resistant. They will find multiple

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The Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST) is a mission-driven Research and Technology Organization (RTO) that develops advanced technologies and delivers innovative products and services to industry and society. As a major engine of the diversification and growth of Luxembourg's economy through innovation, LIST supports the deployment of a number of solutions to a wide range of sectors, including energy, IT, telecommunications, environment, agriculture, and advanced manufacturing at national and European level. Thanks to its location in an exceptional collaborative environment, namely the Belval Innovation Campus, LIST accelerates time to market by maximizing synergies with different actors, including the university, the national funding agency and industrial clusters.

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applications in the fields of construction, plastics, thermal and acoustic insulation in replacement of synthetic fibers.

The signing of this agreement, in the presence of Michel Maquil, President of the Luxembourg Association of Friends of the Foundation of Louvain (ALAF), stands as evidence of the excellent work carried out at LIST. UCL is recognized as one of the best research institutions in Belgium.

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