

PRESS INFORMATION APRIL 2016

## EDYCEM AND ÉCOLE CENTRALE DE NANTES RESEARCH CHAIR: FIRST YEAR REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

One year after the signing of a "teaching and research chair" on 27 February, 2015 EDYCEM (ex VM BÉTON SERVICES) and CENTRALE NANTES make a first assesment, and identify perspectives for the year to come. A pioneering initiative between an engineering school and a mid-sized company, this five-year chair aims to develop research, training and valorisation on the issue of sustainability and energy efficiency of concrete structures.

In 2015, the two partners have defined action plans according to the problems encountered in the field. Their actions have resulted in the **renewal and upgrading of the Technical Document of Application for the fluid screed KALKISS® of EDYCEM**, or **to answer questions about its behavior at young age in hot weather**. On the eve of the second year of collaboration, they agree on the **positive momentum** put in place by their respective teams, which allows them to continue the work and **to start two research theses**.



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## COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES:

DANIEL ROBIN, MANAGING DIRECTOR EDYCEM,

AHMED LOUKILI, PROFESSOR AT CENTRALE NANTES AND CHAIR HOLDER

### ■ A WINNING SYNERGY

«Above the chair, we have truly succeeded in **building a strong unit around EDYCEM**. This is one of the biggest successes of the first year. We can draw upon research and study facilities that we would not have had access to otherwise. For example, concrete testing and measuring equipments help us save time and improve our efficiency in controlling our raw materials. The students, supervised by the team of teachers-researchers directed by AHMED LOUKILI, put many tools and their brainpower at our service for the development of our concretes. The wealth of this chair also lies in the fresh and transversal view these researchers bring to us.», explains DANIEL ROBIN.



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«This first year allowed us to investigate the subjects on which we will work by immersing ourselves in the issues of EDYCEM thanks to the visits of its industrial sites. As an academic research laboratory, this collaboration allows us to be fueled by real expectations in the field, to which we provide technical-scientific answers. The engineers have become aware of the impact of their research on the ground, and the meetings with the company's actors contributed greatly to this! The chair also made it possible to reinforce our technical equipment with modern analytical equipment to carry out the experimental characterization of the materials we study.», adds AHMED LOUKILI.



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### ■ AN INNOVATIVE MOMENTUM

«From a purely pedagogical point of view, the Chair participates in the training of engineering students. We are pleased with the very positive and promising results for CENTRALE NANTES. We gave rise to profiles among the best in particular with the selection of two engineers who carried out a research Master in parallel of their training of Engineers. RÉDA JAAFRI et SIYIMANE MOHAINÉ have been identified to prepare a doctoral thesis in the framework of the chair from September 2015.», explains AHMED LOUKILI.

«ESTELLE BREILLAT, our Quality and Development Director, created the ground to build confidence and strengthen our collaboration by taking advantage of our regional proximity and developing visits to our various production units. This experience reinforces the sense of pride our employees have belonging to an innovation-driven company, and help them developing new competencies. The approach generates a lot of interest, particularly within our partners. We naturally enroll in a long-term vision that differentiates us. Our approach to innovation and our way to think our product lines and related services will allow us to imagine new services for our customers.», concludes DANIEL ROBIN.