

Press Information

Trophées de la construction 2018: An award for the applied research of the Centrale Nantes – EDYCEM Chair

"Smartcem®" connected concrete - developed as part of the Centrale Nantes / EDYCEM (HERIGE Group) industrial research chair, which is supervised by Professor Ahmed LOUKILI - was the winner in the "Digital devices and connected objects" category in the 2018 *Trophées de la construction* (Construction Awards) on 12th September.



This new technology provides traceability of concrete as soon as it is cast. In line with the "smart city" concept, it opts for a sustainable solution using RFID chips and is accessible from any smartphone.

"The jury appreciated the potential of this solution in terms of sustainability and life cycle analysis of cementitious materials".

Ahmed LOUKILI (Centrale Nantes) and **Estelle BREILLAT**, centre right, (Edycem) at the awards ceremony
(Photo Dominique Eskenazi)

Since its inception on 27th February 2015, this five-year chair has reflected the pioneering approach bringing together an engineering school and a mid-cap. Its goal is to develop research, teaching and technology transfer on the issue of the sustainability and energy efficiency of concrete structures. The research work is carried out at several academic levels: engineering student projects, master internships and PhD theses, two of which will be defended in autumn 2018. The scientific and technological knowledge built up within the Chair allow EDYCEM to be at the cutting edge of its field of activity and to offer its customers new materials to meet the needs of modern construction. Among the key results of the Chair are the development of a self-placing insulating structural concrete and the optimization of fluid screed compositions.

About Centrale Nantes

Founded in 1919, Centrale Nantes is a French engineering school and member of the Ecoles Centrale Group. Its undergraduate, Master and PhD programmes are based on the latest scientific and technological developments and the best management practices. At Centrale Nantes, research and training are organised into three key areas for growth and innovation: manufacturing, energy transition and healthcare. With research platforms ranging from digital simulation to prototyping using full scale models and an incubator with 20 years of experience in supporting start-up projects, the school has two major tools for innovation and creation, working hand in hand with industry. Centrale Nantes promotes its teaching and research capabilities at international level through around 100 partnerships with prestigious universities and schools worldwide. Centrale Nantes welcomes 2,410 students, including 1,440 undergraduate students, 200 Executive Education and ITII degree apprenticeship students, 270 PhD students, 410 Masters students, and 100 Bachelor/Foundation Master students on its 40-acre campus.

For more information, visit: www.ec-nantes.fr

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About EDYCEM

The concrete arm of the HERIGE Group, EDYCEM's expertise in the manufacture of concrete and in construction solutions is well established amongst building and public works stakeholders in the West of France. EDYCEM is actively working to offer a full range of concrete and innovative services to meet customer demand.

EDYCEM has more than 215 employees and an annual production of 590,000 m³ of ready-mix concrete, 500,000 m² of paving stones and more than 300,000 ml of roadsides, etc. All these product lines combine technical expertise and aesthetics.

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