



PRESS INFORMATION NOVEMBER 2019

EDYCEM AND CENTRALE NANTES RENEW THEIR RESEARCH CHAIR ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE CONCRETE

Building on twenty years of research collaboration, EDYCEM and CENTRALE NANTES have renewed their research chair for another five-year term to focus on **environmentally responsible concrete**. This €2.9 million programme reflects EDYCEM's desire and commitment to pursue its innovative approach driven by **societal issues**. As the first and only mid-size French company to have signed a research chair with a CNRS laboratory of international reach, this chair brings added value to both parties.

Three new PhD theses are planned on sustainable development issues and tomorrow's climate challenges, which are at the heart of EDYCEM's mission. This **research work** will focus on the development of building materials with a **low environmental footprint**. They meet today's technical requirements in terms of **thermal insulation for buildings** and **protection against natural hazards** for civil engineering structures.



From left to right: Frédéric Grondin – Professor at Centrale Nantes; Ahmed Loukili – Professor at Centrale Nantes and Chairholder; Nicolas Moës – Professor and former Dean of Research at Centrale Nantes; Arnaud Poitou – Director of Centrale Nantes; Estelle Breillat – EDYCEM Quality and Development Director; Philippe Queneau – Managing Director of EDYCEM; Patrice Cartraud – Director of the GEM - Centrale Nantes; Aliénor Gauthier – Chair PhD student; Réda Jaafri – Chair research engineer.

A PARTNERSHIP CREATING VALUE FOR EDYCEM AND CENTRALE NANTES

Innovation at EDYCEM is fuelled by societal issues and by concrete customer expectations. The company has set up this new Chair in order to conduct research that meets the challenges of sustainable development



and regulatory changes in the field of construction. It is also an opportunity to build operating guidelines with its stakeholders. For CENTRALE NANTES, this renewal is a new opportunity to examine the "right" issues to conduct its research and thus remain at the forefront of technological innovation.



"Beyond the concrete results of the work with Centrale Nantes, this partnership is helping to improve our relationships, particularly with our customers and suppliers. For example, we have worked together to develop and implement quality charters for each material. Internally, the day-to-day support of our R&D team brings meaning to our work and real synergy with EDYCEM employees.", Estelle Breillat, EDYCEM Quality and Development Director.

Our teams share these values with our customers in the field by offering them high quality, innovative products that meet their needs. We cultivate this closeness with PhD students, and perpetuate it in order to collectively undertake future research.", added Philippe Queneau, Managing Director of EDYCEM.

EDYCEM BETON

With 27 concrete NF-certified plants in the West of France, EDYCEM BETON is positioned as a real local player. EDYCEM BETON has the necessary resources to offer innovative products developed in its R&D laboratory for professionals and private individuals alike. www.edycem-bpe.fr

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“Daily contact and joint quality research have enabled EDYCEM to boost the technical control of its products. Each material is studied in depth thanks to advanced experimental and numerical techniques, which leads to continuous product improvement as well as new products such as insulating concrete, for which a patent has been filed. On an academic level, the initial objectives have been achieved with three PhD theses, eight master's internships, six industrial projects for Centrale students, international and national publications with various conferences in the region, in France and abroad”, Ahmed Loukili, Chairholder.



“This chair is very satisfactory from an academic perspective. It also reinforces our attractiveness to recruit new talent from renowned schools. New PhD graduates are operational and attractive on the job market thanks to their active collaboration with an industrial company throughout their thesis. For example, at the end of his PhD, Siyimane Mohaine joined the CERIP fire testing laboratory”, Arnaud Poitou, Director of CENTRALE NANTES.

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