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# DESIGN AND MODELING OF INNOVATIVE MATERIALS

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## **École polytechnique and Arkema join forces to found an International Teaching and Research Chair dedicated to Innovative Materials**

**Éric Labaye, Chairman of the Administrative Board of the *École polytechnique*, Thierry Le Hénaff, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Arkema, and Jean-Bernard Lartigue, Executive Director of the X Foundation, have signed a Convention for a “*Design and Modeling of Innovative Materials*” International Teaching and Research Chair on Thursday 8 November. This Chair is held by Julie Diani, CNRS Research Director at the *École polytechnique*’s Solid Mechanics Laboratory.**

Theoretical and experimental modeling of materials and processes is at the forefront of industry concerns. As a multi-field discipline, it demands looking at the physical and mechanical aspects involved in product manufacture and functioning, beyond the chemistry of the materials. As a designer and supplier of high performance materials, Arkema develops ever more innovative processes to assist its customers in their endeavors to designing new products.

Arkema, the *École polytechnique* and its Foundation have decided to create a “Design and Modeling of Innovative Materials” Chair to develop world-class research in order to contribute to inventing the materials of tomorrow.

Arkema, the *École polytechnique* and its Foundation share a common ambition to leverage innovation in order to address the energy, technological, industrial and environmental challenges of today’s and tomorrow’s world. The research and development themes explored as part of the Chair’s remit will concern polymeric materials, thermo-plastic composites, and adhesives, with particular focus on relationships between pro-

cess-structure-properties as well as optimization of processes and mechanical properties.

The ultimate aim of the Chair will be to help:

- Launch an ambitious and innovative research program with an industrial focus involving the development of experimental activities around fundamental experiments.
- Build and structure collaborative scientific research initiatives in priority and strategic fields, in particular through hiring teachers-researchers and regularly organizing scientific meetings (symposia, themed seminars, etc.).
- Consolidate training pools at the highest international level, backed by top quality research, by offering engineering undergraduates, PhD students and post-doctoral students from X a long-term vision, methodologies, and the experience of players from the business world. Accordingly, the funding of theses and post-doctoral work might also be considered.

Thus, the objectives of this five-year partnership are to promote the industrial application and exploitation of modeling technologies, and develop new opportunities for leveraging academic research.



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**ABOUT ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE** / École Polytechnique, also known as L'X, is the leading French institution combining top-level research, academics, and innovation at the cutting-edge of science and technology. Its various undergraduate and graduate-level programs – Bachelor of Science, *Ingénieur Polytechnicien* (Master's level program), Master's, and PhD – are highly selective and promote a culture of excellence with a strong emphasis on science, anchored in humanist traditions. As a widely internationalized university, École Polytechnique offers a variety of international programs and attracts a growing number of foreign students and researchers from around the globe (currently 36% of students and 39% of faculty members).

École Polytechnique offers an exceptional education to prepare bright men and women to excel in top-level key positions and lead complex and innovative projects which meet the challenges of 21st century society, all while maintaining a keen sense of their civil and social responsibilities. With its 22 laboratories, 21 of which are joint research units with the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), the École Polytechnique Research Center explores the frontiers of interdisciplinary knowledge to provide major contributions to science, technology, and society. École Polytechnique is also a pioneer and leading institution of the major scientific and economic cluster, Paris-Saclay, bringing together top French higher education and research institutions, as well as R&D centers of prominent international companies.

[www.polytechnique.edu](http://www.polytechnique.edu)

**ABOUT THE ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE FOUNDATION** / Created in 1987 by twenty leading French companies at the request of Bernard Esambert (Class of 1954), the Chairman of École Polytechnique Board of Directors at the time, and with the support of the Alumni Association, the École Polytechnique Foundation builds bridges between the business world and École Polytechnique, including its students and research professors. The Foundation is a recogni-

zed public-benefit organization that works to promote École Polytechnique. This status entitles it to receive gifts and bequests from both individuals and companies. The funds raised are directed to École Polytechnique programs, facilities, students, and research professors.

[www.fondationx.org](http://www.fondationx.org)

**ABOUT ARKEMA** / A designer of materials and innovative solutions, Arkema shapes materials and creates new uses that accelerate customer performance. Our balanced business portfolio spans High Performance Materials, Industrial Specialties and Coating Solutions. Our globally recognized brands are ranked among the leaders in the markets we serve. Reporting annual sales of €8.3 billion in 2017, we employ around 20,000 people worldwide and operate in some 55 countries. We are committed to active engagement with all our stakeholders. Our research centers in North America, France and Asia concentrate on advances in bio-based products, new energies, water management, electronic solutions, lightweight materials and design, home efficiency and insulation. [www.arkema.com](http://www.arkema.com)

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