

# Interactions UTC

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## 40 : Comment grandir en restant soi-même ?

L'UTC, membre fondateur de Sorbonne Universités, ouvre son écosystème local d'innovation, territoire d'expérimentation ou open living lab à ses partenaires. L'UTC est une université expérimentale qui après la quarantaine, essaime encore son modèle à l'international après l'avoir fait en France. Elle essaime autour de 2 concepts forts comme la recherche technologique qui sera dorénavant avec l'UTT boosté en matière de R&D sur les systèmes complexes déjà développés à Shanghai. Elle essaime aussi la pédagogie souple qui favorise l'apprentissage et reste proche de l'entreprise via les stages longs et les ateliers projets. Ils sont maintenant élargis à l'international comme maintenant au Brésil.

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## Summary

- The Sorbonne Universities Cluster, globalizing universities
- Do the French Universities de Technology (UTs) share common aims?
- International development of the UTC model, all the way to Mexico
- When territories provide ideal 'scale-one' lab. experiments
- "Open Labs represent the future"
- A Dual Partnership to boost R&D in Complex Systems

## Do the French Universities de Technology (UTs) share common aims?



UTC-Compiegne has moved closer to UTT -Troyes) and is currently preparing to consolidate HE clusters as required by the public authorities following the 2007 Pécresse Law. French Universities are indeed engaged in a vast consolidation thrust. The size of each campus is considered to be a powerful lever for productivity and progress as long as they respect the individual identities and their specific features. In every other sector, we can observe how enterprises have regrouped over the past decade.

Globalization forces us to achieve critical sizes. France does not escape this self-evident requirement. UTC-Compiegne asserts that its particular DNA profile and its other specific features constitute a real added-value. As UTC sees it, technology is not a by-product of science - it is a science in its own right. This identity of the French UTs (and in particular for UTC) is an undisputed advantage, a form of differentiation that makes the pioneering UTS original and yet different.

### **A question of methodology**

There are 3 universities of technology today in France: ours (UTC-

Compiègne, created in 1972), UTBM-Belfort Montbéliard and our “big neighbours” UTT-Troyes. For the past year now, Compiègne and Troyes have been working together and getting closer. *“With UTT-Troyes, our objective is to become the first engineering school in France in terms of their combined size”*, adds President Storck. If they achieve this, they will be in an excellent position to defend the colours of engineering sciences and technology in an even larger combination, including a big Parisian techno-cluster. UTC and UTT have lots of points in common: *“Together we have begun building a partnership with various enterprises via our engineering subsidiary Uteam,”* comments Prof Storck, *“and our specialty curricula are complementary and can be seen as a geographic extension of the Paris capital area and its engineering schools”*.

Pierre Koch, President and VP of UTT-Troyes confirms the potential synergies and makes a plea to adopt organization modes that preserve the interests of the parties. *“In France, our engineering schools are too small, individually, but one previously heard solution, to combine them all together would not have been an appropriate move”*. President Koch also recalls that the recent French Regional reform has led to less, but larger geographic entities. *“We are now key players in our respective territories, UTT-Troyes in the ‘Grand Est’ and UTC-Compiègne in ‘Hauts de France’ (the new official ‘denominations’) and we must preserve our capacity to act locally”*.

Nonetheless, both Compiègne and Troyes are supporting the same training project; they have agreed to jointly take major, new, changes into their pedagogical vision, but President Koch feels that *“we must identify an arrangement that complies with the consolidation-related challenges and preserves the independence of all regional actors. But the conditions of participation of University Paris 4 and Paris 6 will help us clarify these points”*.