The École polytechnique, Keyrus, Orange and Thales create a chair to train Data Scientists.

The Secretary of State for Higher Education and Research, Geneviève Fioraso, this morning sponsored the signing of the " Data Scientist " chair created by the École polytechnique, Keyrus, Orange and Thales, and run by the École polytechnique Foundation. The purpose of this chair is to support training programmes in data sciences applied to Big Data in order to meet the growing needs of businesses.

With the explosion in the volume of data, Big Data has become a technological, economic and organizational challenge for businesses. According to the firm **Transparency Market Research**, revenues from the Big Data market should see annual growth close to the 40% level and go from 8.9 billion dollars in 2014 to 24.6 billion dollars in 2016. In France, the Big Data market will amount to nearly 9 billion euros in 2020 and more than 130,000 jobs*. At a time when businesses are faced with a shortage of specialists in Big Data, the Data Scientist chair will actively support the development of this sector of education and research within the École polytechnique.

Training the next generation of " Data Scientists "
The purpose of the chair is to support training programs in data sciences applied to " Big Data " through engineering training, jointly approved between the École polytechnique and Télécom ParisTech, so as to create a new recruitment pool for businesses. The chair will also support on-the-job training intended for working professionals. The teaching staff of this chair will include a professor-researcher and a systems engineer taking care of the IT infrastructure required for this type of training. The sponsoring partners Keyrus, Thales and Orange will offer training placements and will be involved in the training programs, and they will also be able to grant scholarships and participate in award presentations.

A multidisciplinary approach
The purpose of the chair is also to encourage innovative and original research in data sciences applied to Big Data. The work associated with the chair will benefit from strong collaboration between IT specialists, applied mathematicians and players in the economic world.

* Stage point on the 34 plans for the new industrial France – July 2014

The research activities encouraged by the chair will concern the development of efficient algorithms in a multidisciplinary approach. The "Data Scientist" Chair's work will rely on the Centre for Applied Mathematics (Centre de Mathématiques Appliquées/CMAP) at the École polytechnique and the École polytechnique IT Laboratory (Laboratoire d'informatique de l'X (École polytechnique)/ LIX).

Eric Cohen, President and CEO of **Keyrus** : *" We are very proud to have carried forward and supported this major initiative hatched within the Keyrus Group. Our expertise in processing and bringing out the value of data, associated with our knowledge of the ecosystem of Big Data technologies, has enabled us to detect very early on the necessity of recruiting new profiles of candidates who are at the same time scientific and technical and who are able to meet the challenge of Big Data. To achieve this, we will henceforth be supporting the excellence training at the* École polytechnique*, future " Data Scientists " for us and for our clients in 15 countries ".*

According to **Marko Erman**, Technical Director at **Thales** : *" Thales is a major player in Business Intelligence IT, data protection and the fully-secure processing of massive data (Big Data) for its clients in the defence, security, aeronautical, space and transport industries. For Thales, this agreement enables the creation of a new stream of specialized engineers capable of making the link between this new technology and the needs of the market. This is a profile which does not currently exist and which corresponds exactly to what businesses want. This chair is a fine example of collaboration between the academic world and that of industry, promoting research, innovation and employment. "*

Commenting on the creation of this chair, **Bruno Mettling**, Deputy CEO in charge of Human Resources at **Orange**, declared: *" We are proud to be a partner of this chair and to thereby participate in training the future generation of data scientists which will enable technological and innovative businesses like Orange to meet the substantial challenge of developing data networks which is at the heart of the new digital economy. "*

ABOUT THE ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE / Widely internationalized, (30% of its student body, 23% of faculty), the École polytechnique combines top-level research, academics and innovation at the cutting-edge of science and technology. Its curriculum promotes a culture of excellence with a strong emphasis on science, anchored in humanist traditions.

Through its three programs – engineer, master's degree and PhD – the École polytechnique produces socially responsible professionals who excel in leading complex and innovative projects which address the challenges of 21st century society. With its 20 laboratories - all joint research units with the French National Center for Scientific Research (Centre national de la recherche scientifique/CNRS) - the École polytechnique's research center works at the frontiers of knowledge on the major interdisciplinary issues in science, technology and society.

www.polytechnique.edu

ABOUT KEYRUS / A global player in consulting and innovative technologies, Keyrus assists businesses in optimizing their Performance Management through recognized expertise in the fields of Business Intelligence, Big Data and Digital. With a workforce of 1900 consultants and engineers, and present in 15 countries (on 4 continents), our unique value proposal can be explained by the cross-fertilization of our original activities (Business Intelligence and Digital) and the analysis of massive and multi-structured data (Big Data), as much from the point of view of methodology as on the technological level.

The Keyrus Group is quoted in compartment C of the Eurolist of Euronext Paris
(Compartment C/Small caps – ISIN Code: FR0004029411 – Reuters : KEYR.PA – Bloomberg : KEYP:FP)

www.keyrus.com

À PROPOS D'ORANGE / Orange is one of the principal telecommunications operators in the world, with revenues of 41 billion euros in 2013 and 161,000 employees as at 30 June 2014, of which 101,000 in France. Present in 30 countries, the Group served more than 236 million customers as at 30 June 2014, of which 179 million mobile customers and 16 million fixed broadband customers worldwide. Orange is also one of the world leaders in telecommunications services for multinational businesses under the Orange Business Services brand.

Orange is quoted on the NYSE Euronext Paris (symbol ORA) and on the New York Stock Exchange (symbol ORAN).
For further information (on the web and your mobile): **www.orange.com**, *www.orange-business.com, www.livetv.orange.com* or to follow us on Twitter : *@presseorange.*

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www.thalesgroup.com / www.thalesgroup.com/big-data

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ABOUT THE FOUNDATION OF THE ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE / Created in 1987 by twenty major French companies on the initiative of the board of the École polytechnique and with the support of the Association of former pupils and graduates of the École, the École polytechnique Foundation brings the École, its pupils and its teacher-researchers closer to the world of the business. Its purpose is to assist with the development of teaching at the École polytechnique, develop research and the transfer of advanced technologies to French industry and contribute to the training of the Ecole polytechnique's students. It thereby contributes to the standing of the École in France and internationally.

www.fondationx.org