



PRESS RELEASE – SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

Institut Polytechnique de Paris and HEC Paris launch a new Center with global ambitions in the fields of AI and Data Science: A Center designed to better serve the interests of Science, Economy, and Society

HEC Paris and Institut Polytechnique de Paris (IP Paris) announce the creation of Hi! PARIS, an interdisciplinary center for research and education devoted to AI and Data Science. Hi! PARIS is the first interdisciplinary and interinstitutional center in Europe, bringing together education, research and innovation. Its declared ambition is to become a world leader in these fields within five years by answering the major challenges linked to technological transformation and its impact on companies and society at large. The Center will draw on the 300 researchers and the infrastructures of IP Paris and HEC Paris devoted to these fields. This reinforces the dynamic and intense collaboration the two institutions have built, having already shared a doctoral school and joint Master degrees. The Center is entirely financed by the patronage of companies which are mobilized behind the two academic institutions.

Hi! PARIS is a unique space devoted to disruption, teaching and innovation, along with the elaboration and transfer of technology. The Center will intervene in key applied disciplines such as energy and environment, defense and security, health, retail and luxury industries, telecommunications, nutrition, finance and insurance, and more. By reinforcing the collaboration between IP Paris and HEC Paris, and by capitalizing on expertise which range across a broad spectrum of academic fields, Hi! PARIS will have a powerful impact on a European and global scale in terms of Data-AI research and education (engineers, managers, young researchers, executive education). These resources are at present essential for companies and laboratories, both public and private.

Professors Eric Moulines (IP Paris) and Thierry Foucault (HEC Paris), scientific co-directors at the Center, believe that: *“Thanks to a world-class team of professors-researchers, Hi! PARIS aims to conduct projects which will exploit the full potential of AI by recruiting 30 new professors and 150 PhD students of world-class level and to train the future generation of engineers and managers who will build an AI for all domains, while in the process tripling the number of students trained in this field within five years.”*

In order to support its global ambitions, the Center relies on a disruptive vision of sponsoring companies backed by significant financial contributions, which will support long-term research. These are essential collaborations in the drive to become an international champion in higher education and research in the fields of AI and Data Science. They will allow the implementation of a post-doctoral program capable of competing with the greatest institutions in the world. Backed by company partners and academic foundations, the Center’s financial strength will allow it to recruit experts whose research will complement the topics already being studied at Hi! PARIS. The Center already has the backing of five founding sponsors: L’Oréal, Capgemini, TOTAL, Kering, and Rexel.

For Eric Labaye, President of Institut Polytechnique de Paris: *“The objective is to create a world leader in the fields of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science. Thanks to the excellence of our research and education, this Center will work on the frontiers of science in order to develop an Artificial Intelligence and Data Science that are responsible and ethical. Hi! PARIS will contribute to the development of a digital sovereignty of France and Europe, guaranteeing the competitiveness of its enterprises, the efficiency of its administrations, and the quality of life of its citizens.”*

According to Peter Todd, Dean of HEC Paris: *“The success of our project is based on the challenge of achieving multidisciplinary at the very highest level, relying on the combination of complementary and recognized fields of expertise of HEC Paris and Institut Polytechnique de Paris, but also on the support of major actors in the economic world. We hope that many companies will join Hi! PARIS, thus fashioning a new AI at the service of a durable economy and a just society.”*

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ABOUT HEC PARIS

Specializing in education and research in management sciences, HEC Paris offers a complete and unique range of academic programs for the leaders of tomorrow: the Grande Ecole program, Specialized Masters and MSc, Summer School programs, the MBA, Executive MBA and TRIUM Global Executive MBA programs, the Ph.D. program and a wide range of programs for executives and managers.

Founded in 1881 by the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry, HEC Paris has a full-time faculty of 140 professors, 4,500 students and 8,000 managers in executive education programs every year.

ABOUT INSTITUT POLYTECHNIQUE DE PARIS

The Institut Polytechnique de Paris (IP Paris) is a public higher education and research institution that brings together five prestigious French engineering schools: École Polytechnique, ENSTA Paris, ENSAE Paris, Télécom Paris and Télécom SudParis. Under the auspices of the Institute, they share their bicentennial combined expertise to fulfil two major ambitions: to develop educational programs of excellence and cutting-edge research in science and technology. Thanks to the academic anchorage of its five founding schools and its alliance with HEC Paris, IP Paris positions itself as a leading academic and research institution in France and internationally.