The (Initiatives Sciences, Innovation, Territoires, Economies - Initiatives for Science, Innovation, Regions and the Economy) came about as a result of a call for papers launched by the French government within the framework of investing in the future in order to promote the emergence of universities in France with a global reach. This programme provides a unique opportunity to develop partnerships, to attract researchers and to strengthen ties with the corporate world. 8 I-sites projects have been selected, including the one in Nantes (the only certified project west of the Lille-Bordeaux axis). The implementation of the project is part of a wider collaboration between the founding establishments (Université de Nantes, Central Nantes, Nantes University Hospital and INSERM) and their partners (CNRS, IFFSTAR, INRA, ICO, IMT Atlantique, ONIRIS).

The NExT Initiative will enable The Nantes campus to develop and strengthen their activities when it comes to research, training, technology transfer and international appeal, focusing on two key themes: the health of tomorrow and the industry of tomorrow.

TO BECOME A REFERENCE FOR THE HEALTH AND THE INDUSTRY OF TOMORROW...

Interview - Olivier Laboux  
Project Initiator

The aim is to highlight and further develop the excellence of Nantes site, from both an academic and a teaching perspective, and to place Nantes firmly on the map when it comes to global seats of learning. We are also looking to strengthen the university’s foothold in the region and to establish close links between academic stakeholders and the business world.

KEY FIGURES

- **4** founding members
- **6** partners
- **€60** millions euros over 3 years
- **200** more than companies in support of the project
Creating a NExT Innovation Center
dedicated to the development of collaborative creativity and entrepreuship

Launching calls for projects
aimed at supporting innovation and the development of partnerships between laboratories and industrial partners

Setting up training and awareness-raising programmes for researchers looking to set up their own companies (in partnerships with the Hello Toworrow programme DeepTech Founder’s).

2 THEMES...

THE INDUSTRY OF TOWORROW
Advanced production technology
Ocean Engineering

THE HEALTH OF TOWORROW
Innovative biotherapies
Cancer and nuclear medicine
Precision medicine

...5 AREAS OF ACTIVITY

Research

Developing interdisciplinary strategies based around two keys issues via Integrated Research Cluster calls for papers and Internal Interdisciplinary Projects (IIP)

Welcoming and supporting researchers with a global reach through two programmes: NExT Senior Talent and NExT Junior Talent

Supporting talent through the introduction of research bursaries (boosting the potential of research geared towards NExT scientific priorities)

Innovation

Creating a NExT Innovation Center dedicated to the development of collaborative creativity and entrepreuship

Launching calls for projects aimed at supporting innovation and the development of partnerships between laboratories and industrial partners

Setting up training and awareness-raising programmes for researchers looking to set up their own companies (in partnerships with the Hello Toworrow programme DeepTech Founder’s).
Creating an international Development Center, the aim of which will be support the establishment of strategic international partnerships.

Setting up International Research Partnerships in order to build sustainable international research networks specialising in the 2 keys NExT areas of focus.

Supporting project development by taking part in or organising internationally renowned interuniversity competitions.

Annual outgoing mobility bursaries for research in key partner bodies.

Training

Setting up Graduate Schools and Graduate Programmes

Developing international Masters programmes with high added value (100% in English).

Excellence graduate path: strengthening the ties between training, research and innovation along the path leading from Bachelor level to Doctorate level.

Creating a dedicated online training platform.

Developing excellence training programmes, with particular focus on interdisciplinary (Sciences / Human and social Sciences).

Campus Life

Developing a shared academic and student identity through internal communication, orientation weeks, developing student initiatives between establishments and different disciplines.

Developing an alumni network that is shared among the different establishments and compatible with existing networks.

Improving the student experience across different campuses.
The TEAM

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Founding members

UNIVERSITÉ DE NANTES
CENTRALE NANTES
CENTRE HOSPITALIER UNIVERSITAIRE DE NANTES
Inserm

Partner members

INRA
Oniris
IFSTTAR
CNRS
Institut de Cancérologie de l’Ouest
IMT Atlantique

Financial backers

Investir l’avenir
Pays de la Loire
Nantes Métropole