

Valorial General Assembly : Valorial's future is invented today !

The first General Assembly during the era of the new president Pierre Weill gathered more than 130 people, the 18th of April 2013, in Rennes: members, partners, representatives of the local authorities and of the government departments.

On the menu: the balance of 2012, the new "strategic roadmap" for the period 2013-2018, and a round-table conference on "Innovation at the heart of the (new) food model of Western France." Half a day full of discussion, reflection and testimony, reflecting the good momentum of the network of the cluster and the degree of involvement of its members.

More than ever in working order for the inevitable accelerator of competitiveness and growth needed by the food chain of Western France, Valorial presented its new ambitions and broad guidelines of its phase 3.0. The cluster will sign his new performance contract with the State and local authorities in June.

2012 : Recognition and responsibility

Today, Valorial gathers 270 members, of which two thirds are SMEs. This network, constantly increasing since the creation of cluster in 2006, is representative of the wealth of the industrial, academic and higher education fabric of western France and is also emblematic of an increasingly innovative and technologically savvy food chain.

Valorial is the essential accelerator: 38 collaborative innovation projects were approved in 2012 for a consolidated amount of 92.4 million € of which 19.4 million € of public funds were obtained. The amounts of the projects are between 159,000 € and 7.5 million € and the strength of Valorial is precisely to successfully find a suitable financing for these projects whatever their nature, the financial envelope, the size and the partners involved.

Moreover, the results of the 15th national call for projects of the Unique Interministerial Fund (UIF) published in March is a great vintage for Valorial and its members: with 3 innovative and collaborative projects selected on the 4 presented by the cluster, Valorial monopolized half of the selected projects in agriculture and agribusiness.

The projects Meatic, mVolio and Symbio2 represent a total budget of € 18.4 million, raising public funds of € 6 million, and an economic impact estimated at € 150 million of annual provisional turnover at 3 years after project completion.

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During the last few months, Valorial led a participative iterative consultation work, at every meeting opportunity: with the members, with their representatives elected in the governance of the cluster (General Assembly, advisory board, executive board), with the partners and public funders, with the sector managers and the employees of the cluster who will implement the "strategic roadmap" everyday.

Valorial has defined its priorities for the next three years. They will form the basis of this new roadmap: highlight a strong marker, attractive for everybody, apart from the other clusters, and indicative of the cluster's project , develop our core business, integrate the growth factory in the project factory, perfect the territorial anchoring on the 3 regions (Brittany, Pays de la Loire and Basse Normandie) , rebalance the financial resources of the cluster and strengthen the influence of the cluster on the national and European levels.

This new phase is essential to fulfil Valorial's mission: creating value through innovation for the food for the future to be produced by promising sectors of wealth and jobs.

It is therefore a beginning, a starting point for future success. Valorial now clearly reaffirms its ambition to consolidate its place of competitiveness food cluster leader in France.

The round table conference: "Innovation at the heart of the (new) agrifood model of Western France"

At the end of the General Assembly, the food sociologist Claude Fischler, Director of research at the CNRS and author of "l'Homnivore" opened the debate that aimed to cross the point of views and the experiences on the topic "eaters are not like other consumers" and " innovation needs sense" he said, tracing a surprising parallel between the interests of the eaters and those of the food manufacturers.

Anne Lacoste (R&D Director of Cooperl Arc Atlantique), Sylvain Dorschner (Secretary of the club of the 18 global competitiveness clusters), Hubert Garaud (Terrena President), Alexis Taugé (Manager of Cinq Degrés Ouest) and Annna Thrap-Olsen (Operations

Director of Marel France) then exposed their own vision of innovation and its challenges, resulting in particularly rich exchanges with the public, which permitted to feed the strategic reflexion led by Valorial.

The content of these debates clearly indicates that the Western food can be ambitious for the next years.

The executive board

During the General Assembly 2013, members of Valorial have renewed the third out of the executive board. 8 seats were filled. Are elected :

Industrials :

- Eric Bonnel, Air Liquide France Industrie, Regional Director Bretagne, Loire, Vendée
- Luc Castillo, SODIAAL Entremont, R&D Director
- Sébastien Floc'h, Roullier, Manager Group of agribusiness
- Nadia Le Den, Labexia, Director

Centres of research and formation :

- Serge Marabeau, Vegenov, Director
- Nicolas Eteradossi, ANSES, deputy director

Professionals and Economic & Technologic animation organizations :

- Olivier Clanchin, ABEA, President
- Christian Couilleau, Coop de France Ouest, vice president

VALORIAL IN FIGURES*

- > 270 members, of which 2/3 of industrials
- > 257 innovative and collaborative projects approved since 2006 with a total value of 379 M€
 - In 2012 : 38 innovative collaborative projects approved with a total value of 92,4 M€
- > 1 476 industrials and researchers involved in the projects
- > 70% of the projects with a public co-funding
- > 80 innovative and collaborative projects achieved
- > 2 mutualized innovation platforms are under construction

- > IUF projects : Since 2006, 26 projects have been presented to the UIF and 17 were approved – a success rate of over 65%

* at the end of 2012