



Lyon, 4th October 2018

**Groupe SEB, CNRS and Lyon 1 University inaugurate their JOINT LABORATORY:**

**“ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR COOKWARE INDUSTRY” (ASCI)**

*Industrial expertise and academic knowledge dedicated to innovation*

Today, Groupe SEB, through its world number one cookware brand TEFAL, the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and Claude Bernard University Lyon 1 (UCBL) inaugurated the ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR COOKWARE INDUSTRY (ASCI) joint laboratory. The aim is to boost innovation through the exchange of industrial expertise and academic knowledge.

For over ten years, the Laboratory of Multi-Materials and Interfaces (LMI) at Claude Bernard University Lyon 1 / CNRS, member of the Carnot Ingénierie@Lyon institute, and Groupe SEB have been working closely together on research projects in the field of materials and coatings, with the aim of enhancing the performance of Groupe SEB products.

The quality of the partnership and its scientific research led management teams at both organisations to enter into a new phase of development through a joint laboratory.

On one hand, Groupe SEB, world leader in its field, is confirming its desire to speed up and develop research work into key areas for its innovation strategy, while LMI, a laboratory renowned for its work in materials chemistry, is taking up new experimental challenges.

The ASCI joint laboratory, which has been up and running since July 2018 and is set to continue its work for the next four years, is located at the heart of Lyon-Tech-la Doua Campus in Villeurbanne, in new Axel'One Campus buildings designed for basic research on joint projects in the fields of innovative materials and processes.

LMI is currently made up of five research groups, with a total of 85 researchers, 27 of whom are already working on this project. Groupe SEB has chosen eight members of its Research teams to work with LMI scientists in the joint research laboratory.

The ASCI laboratory has a 60-square metre space for experimentation as well as office space. Its location close to LMI will provide easy access to cutting-edge equipment.

**Bénédicte Simond, Senior VP Research at Groupe SEB:** *“This project fits perfectly with Groupe SEB’s open innovation strategy and the strengthening of our relations with the world of academic and scientific research. It is also a great opportunity for some of our employees to be totally integrated in an academic research laboratory.”*

**Arnaud Brioude, Director of LMI:** *“Creating the ASCL joint laboratory was a priority for our laboratory. The project’s aim was, on the one hand, to build on and prolong the ten-year partnership we already had with Groupe SEB and, on the other, to create a new efficient structure that would be flexible and therefore responsive. The creation of this third-party body will take our academic/industrial partnership to a new level, whereby everyone involved in the project will see their cooperation bear fruit and progress towards a common goal.”*

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**About Groupe SEB :**

World reference in small domestic equipment, Groupe SEB operates with a unique portfolio of 29 top brands including Tefal, Seb, Rowenta, Moulinex, Krups, Lagostina, All-Clad, WMF, Emsa, Supor, marketed through multi-format retailing. Selling some 300 million products a year, it deploys a long-term strategy focused on innovation, international development, competitiveness and service to clients. With products being present in over 150 countries, Groupe SEB generated sales of approximately €6,5 billion in 2017 and had around 33,000 employees worldwide.

**About University Claude Bernard Lyon 1 :**

Founded in 1970, the University Claude Bernard Lyon 1, with 45,000 students, has established itself as one of the largest French universities both in its number of students and the quality of its research. Our university shows its commitment to training 90 % of its students vocationally (in the fields of science, technology, health sciences and recently, teacher training), thus enabling them to find appropriate work on leaving Lyon 1. With 5000 staff on 13 different sites, the University Claude Bernard Lyon 1 is also one of the biggest employers in the Rhone-Alpes region.

**About CNRS :**

The French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) is Europe's largest public research institution. It produces knowledge for the benefit of society. With 31,612 employees, a budget exceeding 3.5 billion euros in 2017 (including a self-generated income of 787 million euros), the CNRS is present in all scientific fields through its 1100 laboratories in France and around the world. The organization has international visibility thanks to eight offices abroad, which could become hubs for French research. It has developed international cooperation tools with its foreign partners, including 183 International Associated Laboratories (LIA) and 36 International Joint Units (UMI), which are real joint laboratories. Moreover, the CNRS is a partner of the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs in 26 joint units with a French research institute abroad (UMIFRE). With 21 Nobel laureates and 12 Fields Medal winners, the organization has a long tradition of excellence. It carries out research in mathematics, physics, information sciences and technologies, nuclear and particle physics, Earth sciences and astronomy, chemistry, biological sciences, the humanities and social sciences, engineering and the environment.

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