



Press release
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Carnauto R&D program facilitates access to innovation for automotive-industry SMBs

The **Carnauto** program, run by a consortium of nine Carnot Institutes members—all major players in France's publicly-funded research ecosystem—, facilitates access to innovation for automotive- and mobility-industry SMBs. The purpose of the program is to help smaller businesses in this sector become more competitive.

Harnessing R&D to drive competitiveness

The automotive industry has traditionally been characterized by a particularly intricate web of demands and requirements—resulting in a degree of complexity that has recently been compounded by new environmental and business challenges, the arrival of new market players, and the emergence of new mobility models. This raises unique challenges for the thousands of SMBs operating in the industry. The Carnauto program was set up to help these businesses boost their capacity for innovation and the added value they deliver to their customers—crucial if they are to remain competitive, create wealth, and add jobs to the economy.

Individual support

The Carnauto program will reach out to automotive- and mobility-industry companies and, especially, those that do not generally take advantage of publicly-funded research or that do so but to a limited extent. Carnauto will offer these companies an opportunity to discuss their needs with qualified professionals and access personalized services to meet their business development needs. Costs and lead times will also be optimized for these smaller businesses.

The program will focus on three market segments:

- Powertrain
- Materials and architectures
- ICTs and mobility

The Carnauto program's objective is to at least double the volume of R&D partnerships with SMBs in the automotive and mobility industries. The goal is to make these companies more attractive by helping them better integrate innovations into their products and services.

Facilitating access to innovation

The Carnauto program will roll out a novel approach to supporting innovation for SMBs. No new organization will be set up; the program will mainly leverage the existing network of partners and technology platforms and will simply facilitate SMBs' access to these resources.

The nine Carnot Institutes involved in the Carnauto program boast more than 8,000 researchers and 65 technology platforms. By working together, the partners will generate synergies, which, when combined with the resources of other major automotive-industry organizations like PFA¹ and clusters, will facilitate small businesses' access to a unique range of technical facilities and scientific know-how.

A joint initiative of the Carnot Institutes

Carnauto is one of eight Carnot Institutes industry-specific programs² and brings together nine major public research and innovation organizations: the ARTS Carnot Institute, CEA

¹ France's automotive- and mobility-industry federation

² The seven other Carnot Institutes industry-specific programs are: Manufacturing, Drugs, Extraction and Initial Transformation of Raw Materials, Aeronautics, Automotive, Luxury and Apparel, Sports, and Energy.

LETI, CEA LIST, CETIM, Energies du Futur, ESP, IFPEN Transports Energie (IFPEN TE), Ingénierie@Lyon, and Télécom & Société numérique (TSN). The IFPEN TE Carnot Institute is coordinating the program.

About the Carnot Institutes industry-specific programs

Carnot Institutes with a strong focus on specific technologies are working together to help small- to mid-sized businesses in key industries **to help these businesses access the Institutes' technical facilities and know-how.**

The industry-specific programs are coordinated by each consortium of partners to:

- Give businesses access to R&D partnerships and knowledge- and technology-transfer services that are well-organized and easy to understand and that meet the unique R&D needs of the industry targeted
- Reach out to businesses to better understand and meet their needs and help them target their products and services to market demand
- Support these businesses' innovation strategies and help them take advantage of the resources at the partners' technology platforms

The programs are targeted to specific industries to better meet the needs of smaller businesses operating in these industries and to boost the impact of the Carnot Institutes' activities on businesses' capacity for innovation.

The Carnot Institutes industry-specific programs are funded in part through the French government's economic stimulus package and, specifically, the Technology Transfer-Carnot Institutes instrument administered by the French National Research Agency (ANR).

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