

*The two leading private technology centres in Spain join forces in R&D and Innovation for Industry 4.0 and mobility.*

## **More than 1,500 researchers from CTAG and TECNALIA will work together on mobility of the future**

- *The objective of the alliance between the two centres is to offer comprehensive and pioneering services in this field.*
- *Robotics, vehicle automation and developments for the electric car are some of the most immediate areas of cooperation.*

**xx June 2020** The two leading technology centres in Spain have reached an agreement to offer their joint expertise and face the challenges of advanced manufacturing, Industry 4.0 and robotics in the automotive sector. The Automotive Technology Centre of Galicia (CTAG) and the research and technological development centre, TECNALIA, have signed a cooperation agreement virtually between Oscar Fernandez Besteiro, President of CTAG, and Emiliano López Atxurra, Chairman of TECNALIA.

The automotive sector is at a turning point. New restrictions in terms of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, mobility demands in cities and the current situation caused by COVID-19 are forcing the sector to reinvent itself and commit to new technologies for a sustainable future. Therefore, connectivity, electrification and autonomous and automated driving have become the new features of the sector.

The purpose of the cooperation in which more than 1,500 researchers from both centres will work together, is to put forward more powerful and comprehensive services to complement the supply and capacities of companies in the sector. To do so, CTAG and TECNALIA will offer companies new solutions and results through R&D and Innovation projects in the fields of mobility and advanced manufacturing, as well as activities that foster the creation of new technology-based companies. They will also be able to share the state-of-the-art facilities at each centre and move forward together in the provision of advanced services, particularly in the areas of material analysis, failure analysis, the environment and digitalisation of inspections.

It is worth highlighting the following initiatives: first of all, as a result of the knowledge and experience of both centres in the field of robotics and exoskeletons, new solutions to improve the ergonomic conditions of operators will be developed. Secondly, new developments for the automation of special

vehicles in different environments, such as ports, airports and industrial estates will be further enhanced. They will also implement a joint strategy for the development of the electric car and its components, among others.

Furthermore, through this cooperation, both entities will strengthen and increase their talent volume in areas of specialisation, such as the automotive industry, manufacturing or digitalisation, becoming the national and European benchmark in these areas.

### **CTAG and TECNALIA, the two leading private technology centres in Spain**

CTAG, whose challenge is to boost the competitiveness of companies in the automotive sector through R&D and Innovation, will provide this partnership with more than 800 researchers and professionals who have turned the centre into a benchmark and guide in technological development and innovation, positioning itself at the forefront of research into new materials, the development of comfort and driving assistance systems and vehicle electrification. CTAG participates locally, nationally and internationally in around 2,500 projects and technological services a year and with more than 400 entities ranging from start-ups to large multi-nationals. It also participates in numerous R&D and Innovation projects within the European framework.

TECNALIA is part of the BRTA (Basque Research and Technology Alliance), and has a team of more than 1,400 experts from 30 different nationalities. Its activity consists of visualising, identifying and developing comprehensive technological solutions together with its clients. Among them, there are more than 7,500 companies with which it has worked since its origins, 75% of which are SMEs. In addition to this team, there is a growing network of more than 25 strategic alliances all over the world with research centres and leading companies.

After signing this agreement, Oscar Fernandez Besteiro, President of CTAG, assured that this cooperation "strengthens the CTAG strategy of fostering technological development, research and innovation, key factors in construction and mobility of the future. It also consolidates our cooperation vocation, adding a new alliance with a major Technological Centre of international prestige".

Emiliano López Atxurra, Chairman of TECNALIA, highlighted the "importance" of this agreement because "industry in the Spanish automotive sector must be able to evolve technologically at the necessary speed to continue to be a reference in the global automotive value chain, and to do so, it must position itself flexibly in the short term in the different areas of mobility, from the conventional to hydrogen-based, as well as electric, and in automation and services associated with mobility in the medium and long term. CTAG and TECNALIA have the technological strands to do so and if we join efforts, we can take the final step that the sector needs. Our well-being forces us to commit to technology and industry. There is no sustainable industry without open innovation and technological

excellence. The new scenario demands the highest level of quality in our technological services for companies. Nowadays, cooperating in the technological-industrial recapitalisation of Spain is a must. Joining forces is the only alternative in order to be in the European league, along with European competitors-partners".

#### **About CTAG**

CTAG is a private technology centre created to offer advanced technological solutions to the automotive sector. With more than 800 professionals, it supports industry in the modernisation and adaptation of their products and processes to the new technologies. CTAG participates in new developments and major industrial projects. Its main areas of expertise are Manufacturing Processes, Materials, Safety, Validation, Electronics and Smart Transport Systems.

#### **About TECNALIA**

As part of the BRTA (Basque Research and Technology Alliance), TECNALIA is a benchmark Research and Technological Development Centre for Europe, with 1,400 professionals representing 30 different nationalities, focusing on transforming technology into GDP to improve people's quality of life, by creating business opportunities for companies. Its key areas of action are: Digital Transformation, Advanced Manufacturing, Energy Transition, Sustainable Mobility, Urban Ecosystem and Health.

#### **For further information:**

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