

PRESS RELEASE

Paris-Saclay, 15 March 2021

**New development prospects for
the Fablab Digiscope at Université Paris-Saclay**

Created as part of the Equipex Digiscope initiative in 2013, the Fablab Digiscope at Université Paris-Saclay was awarded two grants in 2020. The Prefecture of Ile-de-France granted the Fab Lab €100K as part of its “*FabLab-C19 : industrie du futur en circuit court au service de la santé*” (FabLab-C19: the industry of tomorrow and short supply chains for the healthcare sector) programme. The Lab was also awarded €57K from the Regional Council of Ile-de-France as part of the “*Aide à la création de tiers-lieux*” (Aid for the creation of third places) call for proposals.

The Fablab Digiscope is a space where entrepreneurs, designers, artists, DIYers, professionals, secondary school and university students, fabbers and makers can all come to design, use digital manufacturing tools, develop prototypes and learn through a DIWO approach (Do It With Others).

During the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the team at Fablab Digiscope coordinated the digital fabrication of protective equipment for hospital staff throughout the Ile-de-France region. The operation highlighted the limits of standard Fab Lab machinery and demonstrated the need for semi-industrial computer-controlled equipment that would make changing manufacturing scales and switching to micro-scale manufacturing possible, making it easier to meet health crisis needs. As a result, the Prefecture of Ile-de-France decided to finance the project and turn this first step in becoming a “Super Fab Lab” into a reality.

The grant provided by the Regional Council of Ile-de-France, as part of the call for proposals “*Aide à la création de tiers-lieux*” (Aid for the creation of third places), means that Fablab Digiscope’s status will change from being classified by the French Ministry of the Economy and Finance as archetype 4 to archetype 5. Fab Labs with an archetype 5 status are geared towards economic sectors and are able to offer long-term subscriptions and on-site access. Researchers, students and entrepreneurs will all be able to use the Super Fab Lab’s equipment to transform their prototypes into small series production, either themselves or upon request.

These two grants mark a turning point in the Fab Lab’s development. Not only will they allow Fablab Digiscope to invest in new specialised equipment, but they will also allow for the development and promotion of its actions through research projects, support initiatives for doctoral students and researchers, courses with internationally-renowned institutions and practical training for the general public.

More information on the Fablab Digiscope is available [here](#).

ABOUT UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY

Université Paris-Saclay brings together ten constituent faculties and institutes, four Grandes Écoles, the Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques, two associate institutions and shared laboratories with six national research organisations.

With 48,000 students, 8,100 lecturers and 8,500 administrative and technical staff members, Université Paris-Saclay offers a comprehensive and varied range of undergraduate to doctorate level programmes and engineering degrees, renowned for their quality thanks to the reputation and commitment of the University's academic staff.

Located in the south of Paris on vast sites that stretch across Paris, Orsay, Évry and Versailles, Université Paris-Saclay benefits from a strategic geographical and socio-economic position that is strengthened by its international visibility. A leading University, Université Paris-Saclay is recognised for its excellent Mathematics and Physics programmes but also for Biological and Medical Sciences, Agriculture, Engineering, and its extensive Humanities and Social Sciences courses. Close to Paris, Université Paris-Saclay is nested in a protected natural area, at the very heart of a dynamic economic hub.



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