PRESS RELEASE

EuroCommons: Caisse des Dépôts, Fraunhofer and Inria join forces to strengthen European strategic digital commons

Paris / Berlin, 2 November 2026 — On the occasion of the Franco-German forum for the future and the digital summit in Berlin, and as part of the EuroCommons programme launched on 1 July 2026, Catherine Mayenobe, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Caisse des Dépôts Group, Dr. Marcel Altendeitering, for the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, and Bruno Sportisse, chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Inria, announce the signing of a memorandum of understanding aimed at structuring a research and development collaboration devoted to the development, maintenance and strengthening of digital commons of European strategic interest.

This partnership builds on EuroCommons, the initiative launched by Caisse des Dépôts on 1 July 2026 within the framework of its strategic roadmap Digital Horizon 2030. This initiative aims to bring together, in coalitions, major information technology departments, open source communities and European public institutions around critical software components, in order to migrate together towards open and sustainable digital commons.

The three parties intend to jointly advance the EuroCommons initiative and to explore the mobilisation of their research and development capabilities in order to help overcome the technological barriers that the coalitions will face. The cooperation may take different forms, such as the exchange of information in preparation for joint projects, the execution of research and development projects funded from public sources, and contract research conducted by Fraunhofer and/or Inria for Caisse des Dépôts.

Three complementary players in European digital sovereignty

This memorandum of understanding brings together Caisse des Dépôts, a long-term investor serving the general interest and the sovereign digital ecosystem; the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, Europe's leading organization for applied research, along with its Fraunhofer ISST institute, which develops smart data ecosystems such as data spaces for sovereign data exchange ; and Inria, the French national research institute for digital sciences and technologies, tasked with strengthening the digital sovereignty of France and Europe, notably through the coordination of the research component of the national artificial intelligence strategy since 2018.

Catherine Mayenobe, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Caisse des Dépôts Group, said: *"European digital sovereignty must now rest on open source software that is collectively mastered. With Fraunhofer and Inria, Caisse des Dépôts is committing the best of European research to overcome the technical obstacles that still hold back digital commons. This is the whole ambition of the EuroCommons initiative, fully in line with our Digital Horizon 2030 roadmap for a sovereign, sustainable and high-performance digital ecosystem at the European scale."*

Dr. Marcel Alterndeitering, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, said: "*Fraunhofer stands for applied research that delivers real-world impact. With our expertise in data ecosystems and sovereign data exchange at Fraunhofer ISST, we will help turn digital commons into reliable, interoperable solutions. Together with Caisse des Dépôts and Inria, we are strengthening the Franco-German foundation for Europe's digital sovereignty*."

Bruno Sportisse, chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Inria: "*Reducing our technological dependencies and increasing our digital resilience are major issues. I am convinced that we have to*

revamp our way of acting in Europe by renewing public/private partnerships, by developing open source communities with a global footprint and by aligning our strategies and roadmaps especially between France and Germany. That is why this MOU between Caisse des Dépôts, Fraunhofer and Inria is a strong signal for the European digital sovereignty in software."

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About the Caisse des Dépôts Group
Caisse des Dépôts and its subsidiaries form a public long-term investor group serving the general interest and economic development of local areas.

It combines five areas of expertise: social policy (pensions, professional training, disability, old age, health), asset management, monitoring subsidiaries and strategic shareholdings, business financing (with Bpifrance) and Banque des Territoires.

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About Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft
The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, headquartered in Germany, is a leading organization for applied research. It plays a pivotal role in innovation by focusing on cutting-edge technologies and transferring research results to industry in order to strengthen Germany as a business location and benefit society.

At Fraunhofer ISST, we are convinced that data unlocks its full potential when it interacts with other data—in smart data ecosystems. To this end, Fraunhofer ISST develops technologies and concepts that enable trustworthy data exchange across organizational boundaries and the intelligent use of data. In this way, the institute lays the groundwork for new forms of data-driven value creation and intelligent, increasingly autonomous systems.

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About Inria
Inria, the French national institute for research in digital science and technology, supports the French government in national research and innovation strategies in the digital field, acting as Digital Programs Agency. Inria leads over 300 research and innovation projects with its 3,500 scientists, engineers, and support staff, in partnership with universities and the digital ecosystem (businesses, entrepreneurs, and public stakeholders).
Together, we explore strategic fields such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, quantum computing, cloud technologies, digital transformation in healthcare, digital twins, and digital technologies for defence.
We develop practical solutions such as software, tech startups, partnerships with national companies, and cutting-edge training programmes.
Our goal is to drive scientific, technological, and industrial excellence to ensure France’s digital sovereignty.
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