

PRESS RELEASE 11 January 2018

Julien Bras honoured by IMT and the Academy of Science



On 21 November 2017, the Deputy Director of LGP2 received the “Prix Espoir IMT – Académie des Sciences” award during a ceremony held under the dome of the Institut de France.

The prize, which was created by the Mines-Télécoms Institute (IMT) and the Academy of Science, rewards outstanding scientific contributions at a European level, in three areas: the science and technology of industry's digital transformation, the science and technology of the energy transition and environmental engineering. The “Prix Espoir IMT – Académie des Sciences” is awarded to a scientist based in France, or working elsewhere in Europe in close conjunction with French teams, whose work has led to the emergence of breakthrough innovations and processes and who has contributed to research in partnership with the world of business.

Julien Bras has been Associate Professor at Grenoble INP-Pagora since 2006. He was previously employed as an engineer by a company involved in the paper sector in France, Italy and Finland. Not only is he Deputy Director of the Laboratory of Pulp and Paper Science and Graphic Arts (LGP2), he also heads the *Multiscale biobased materials (MatBio)* team.

For more than 15 years, his research on cellulose at a nanometric scale has been geared towards obtaining high-performance biomaterials and developing uses for these renewable resources. Closely controlling cellulose fibre destructuring and restructuring processes may open the way for a wide variety of materials that could be used in a vast range of fields with a minimal environmental impact. The originality of his work lies in his adoption of a cross-disciplinary and multiscale approach to the hybridisation of biological (enzymatic), chemical (alteration with acids or bases) and physical (grinding, homogenisation, extrusion)

The Laboratory of Pulp and Paper Science and Graphic Arts (LGP2) is a joint research unit (UMR 5518) run by the CNRS, Grenoble INP and the AGEFPI. It conducts its scientific activities in conjunction with the academic community of Grenoble Alpes University. LGP2 comprises three teams: *Biorefinery: chemistry and eco-processes* – *Multiscale biobased materials* – *Surface functionalization through printing processes*. Their research strives to meet society's expectations when it comes to sustainable development (green chemistry, clean processes, recycling, biobased materials, renewable energy) and traceability & safety (functional materials, smart paper and packaging).
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Grenoble INP-Pagora, the international school of paper, print media and biomaterials. The school is Quality, Safety & Environment certified and part of Grenoble INP, an engineering institute geared towards training “engineers who are creative, responsible and committed to a sustainable world”. It trains engineers for the sectors of green chemistry, paper, printing, packaging, biomaterials and printed electronics. It also offers a vocational degree: *Interactive Print and Digital Media*. Its wide range of courses, pedagogical expertise and strong partnerships with industry allow it to continuously tailor its training to the needs of businesses and to the 60 graduates it produces each year, thus enabling them to embark upon stimulating careers in France and abroad. Grenoble INP-Pagora also develops international training in conjunction with several European universities, as well as offering a 2nd year engineering course and a Post-Master dispensed in English: “*Biorefinery: bioenergy, bioproducts & biomaterials*”. The innovative research performed by its LGP2 laboratory helps to improve processes and create products that meet all the latest requirements, notably those linked to the environment. The Cerig's role is to keep an active eye on technological developments in these industries. These various activities ensure that the training offered is up to date with the latest scientific and technological advances.
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processes, so as to develop ways of controlling the structure of cellulose continuously from nanometric to metric scale and to obtain final products that are industrialisable and industrialised.

His scientific output stands at 111 journal publications with a high impact factor. The industrial potential of Julien Bras's research is illustrated not only by his collaborations, but also by the nine patents he has filed and, in particular, the two start-ups that he has helped to set up: Poly-Ink, which specialises in the production of transparent conductive inks for the electronics industry, and InoFib, which produces nanocellulose for the paper, composites and chemical industries.

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Photos:

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P17_bras-prix-imt-as2.jpg

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