

PRESS RELEASE

Lyon, October 6, 2026

RTE, Lyon 1 University and Nexans launch "Sustainable Electrical Networks Engineering", a unique Master's pathway in France to prepare future electrical network engineers

As the energy transition reshapes electrical networks and creates new demand for specialised skills, RTE, Lyon 1 University's IUT and Nexans have combined their expertise to co-develop the "Sustainable Electrical Networks Engineering" (IRED) Master's pathway, a unique Bac+5 work-study pathway in France, within Lyon 1 University's Master's in Energy. This university curriculum brings together higher education instruction, industrial expertise and practical application, closely aligned with the sector's recruitment needs.

Meeting the new skills needs of the electricity sector

The energy transition and the renewal of electrical networks are accompanied by a growing need for specialised skills. The study "Employment and skills needs of the electrical networks sector", published in 2025 as part of the France 2030 programme, estimates that nearly 2,800 recruitments of expert electrical engineering executives will be required between 2025 and 2030. It also highlights the value of developing specialised training pathways, in addition to existing offerings, to support changing job profiles and strengthen the sector's attractiveness.

To meet this challenge, RTE, IUT Lyon 1 and Nexans co-developed the IRED Master's pathway as part of the "*Écoles des réseaux pour la transition énergétique*" programme, created by the electrical networks sector (Enedis, RTE, FNTF, SERCE, GIMELEC and SYCABEL), supported by France 2030 in partnership with the Ministry of National Education. This higher education qualification complements the MELEC vocational baccalaureate and the BTS Electrotechnics programmes currently offered by 178 partner high schools. It includes specific training modules on electrical networks such as understanding the power system and mastering power electronics for monitored and smarter electric grids.

Concretely, the IRED Master's pathway can lead to careers as electrical engineering engineer, electrical project manager, business development manager, and other roles at the heart of the electrical networks sector.

A university programme developed with industry and closely aligned with field realities

Unique in France, this programme prepares students for careers in electrical network engineering through a pedagogy built around the needs of industry, combining academic teaching, industrial expertise and company immersion. Over the two-year course, 40% of university teaching is designed and delivered by RTE and Nexans experts, enabling students to benefit from experience directly connected to the sector's operational challenges.

This programme complements existing pathways into engineering by offering a strong specialisation in electrical networks and by diversifying the profiles entering this strategic sector.

Inspiring interest among a broad audience

The sector is also continuing its actions to strengthen the attractiveness of its training and professions and to broaden its recruitment pools. By promoting awareness of the professions, fighting stereotypes and highlighting role models, sector stakeholders help make these future-facing jobs known to all talents and work to increase female participation.

Partners' statements

Sophie Moreau-Follenfant, Director General of the Transformation – Employee Environment division and Director of Human Resources

"The transformation of electrical networks represents a major industrial challenge, relying as much on infrastructure and technologies as on the women and men able to design, build, operate and maintain them. The IRED Master's pathway, tailor-made, directly addresses the needs of companies in the electrical networks sector. It illustrates a strong conviction: there are other paths to join our professions. the university pool is a richness and we want to mobilise it fully to train and recruit the talents who will make the energy transition possible."

Michel Massenzio - Director, IUT Lyon 1

"Backed by university research, the IUT offers a training model balanced between academic rigour, technological excellence and professionalisation. This DNA, which already makes the Bachelor Universitaire de Technologie (BUT) well known, is now embodied at the Bac+5 level with the IRED Master's pathway. Dedicated to the challenges of the energy transition and sustainable development, this programme offers maximum employability and an evolving skills foundation essential to understanding the jobs of tomorrow and supporting company transformations."

Jérôme Fournier - Director of Innovation for the Nexans Group

"The decarbonisation of our societies depends on the electrification of uses and the development of networks. This transformation creates major skills needs and opens up rich, varied and meaningful career opportunities. By combining academic excellence and company work-study periods, the IRED Master's pathway offers students a concrete immersion with professionals while preparing them to become the future experts of electrical networks, capable of responding to the realities and challenges of a sector in full transformation. At Nexans, we are proud to contribute to the training of these talents, who will collectively take up the challenges of electrification and help grow an innovative sector open to all talents."

About RTE

RTE is the electricity transmission system operator in France. Through its public service mission, RTE guarantees, every day and at every moment, the delivery of electricity across the territory and ensures, in real time, the management of electrical flows and the balance between production and consumption. To connect regions and industries to electricity generation, RTE deploys onshore and offshore infrastructure essential to the decarbonisation of our economy and to the energy transition. In the face of the climatic, economic and environmental challenges that require major transformations, RTE maintains and develops more than 106,000 kilometres of high and very high voltage power lines. This network, the most extensive in Europe, includes 37 interconnections with neighbouring countries and around fifty cross-border links. Thanks to the commitment of its 10,000 employees present across the territory, RTE is committed every day to making the electricity grid the engine of a decarbonised France.

Find out more: www.rte-france.com

Press contact: charlotte.colin@rte-france.com – 06 04 93 03 75

About Lyon 1 University

Lyon 1 University, a university of science, technology, health and sport, has nearly 50,600 students and 5,000 staff. For more than 50 years it has combined education, research and innovation and develops interdisciplinary research serving major scientific and societal challenges. With its 82 research units and its range of programmes in the fields of science, health and sport, Lyon 1 University contributes to scientific influence and innovation at national and international levels.

Within the university, **IUT Lyon 1** offers vocationally-oriented training closely linked to the needs of companies and industry sectors. Located across several sites in the Lyon metropolitan area, it relies on teaching teams and partnerships with socio-economic stakeholders to promote professional integration and skills development.

Find out more: www.univ-lyon1.fr; www.iut.univ-lyon1.fr

Press contact Lyon 1 University direction.communication@univ-lyon1.fr

Béatrice Dias: 06 76 21 00 92

About Nexans

Nexans is the global pure player in sustainable electrification, building the essential systems that power the world's transition to a connected, resilient, and low-carbon future. From offshore and onshore renewable energies to smart cities and homes, Nexans designs and delivers advanced cable solutions, accessories and services that electrify progress safely, efficiently, and sustainably.

With over 140 years of history, through three core businesses: PWR Transmission, PWR Grid, and PWR Connect, Nexans blends deep industry expertise with cutting-edge innovation to accelerate the energy transition, and better meet its customers' needs. Its unique E3 model, focused on Environment, Economy and Engagement, drives every action, aligning performance with purpose.

Nexans operates in 39 countries with 12,830 people and generated €6.1 billion in standard sales in 2025. Nexans is committed to Net-Zero emissions by 2050 aligned with the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) and expanding energy access through the Fondation Nexans.

Nexans is listed on Euronext Paris, Compartment A.

#ElectrifyTheFuture

Find out more: <https://www.nexans.com/fr/>

Press contact: Havas Paris - nexans_h@havas.com

Emmanuelle Guy: emmanuelle.guy@nexans.com