

Press Release

Dunkirk, March 11, 2026

Dunkirk, winner of the “Support and Transformation of Industrial Sectors” call for projects, continues its economic diversification with the creation of a 5G Campus

Selected under the “Support and Transformation of Industrial Sectors” call for projects launched by the French State and the Hauts-de-France Region as part of the regionalized France 2030 program, the Dunkirk area is taking a new step in transforming its economic model through the creation of a 5G Campus dedicated to industrial and port-related applications.

This project, led by the Dunkirk Urban Community, ÉcosystèmeD, ArcelorMittal France — through the Dunkirk Digital Lab — and DEFI4, a training organization dedicated to supporting industrial transformation, particularly in digital and decarbonization challenges, will benefit from €1 million in co-financing from Bpifrance over three years, with approximately half provided as grants and the other half as repayable advances.

With this new initiative, Dunkirk aims to structure a genuine innovation ecosystem around 5G technology, enabling the development of skills, fostering the emergence of new applications, and supporting industrial and port companies in their transformations. Through this support, the French State and the Region recognize the territory’s capacity to become a regional driving force in the development of industrial and port-related 5G uses.

Building on its experience in managing national programs such as *Territories of Innovation*, *Low-Carbon Industrial Zone*, and *Territories of Industry*, ÉcosystèmeD will oversee the project’s coordination. The organization will be responsible for bringing stakeholders together and acting as a trusted third party between partners, funders, and project leaders to ensure the successful implementation of the planned actions.

A structuring project built around three complementary pillars

The project is based on three complementary areas designed to structure and accelerate the development of a regional ecosystem around 5G technologies.

The first pillar focuses on the creation of the 5G Campus, whose mission will be to raise awareness among economic stakeholders about the challenges and applications of 5G while developing training programs tailored to the needs of industrial companies. It will also help structure a regional community of stakeholders around this technology, identify both individual and collective business needs, and support the development and dissemination of innovative solutions across the territory.

The second pillar involves the creation of an incubator dedicated to industrial and port transitions, including specific support for projects related to 5G solutions and Industry 4.0. Led by the Dunkirk Urban Community and ÉcosystèmeD, the incubator will support the emergence and growth of innovative startups capable of providing concrete solutions to industrial and environmental transition challenges. Located within the ÉcosystèmeD building, it will benefit from existing infrastructure and the collaborative dynamic of the innovation park in order to foster synergies between entrepreneurs, industrial players, and innovation stakeholders.

Finally, the third pillar focuses on establishing dedicated engineering support for project development and funding mobilization. This mission will involve identifying calls for projects, expressions of interest, and support schemes likely to support initiatives from the local ecosystem. It will also help coordinate

collective responses from financial, legal, and administrative perspectives, facilitate the partnerships necessary for success, and ensure long-term project monitoring.

5G: a strategic driver for industrial transformation

Beyond its technological performance, 5G is now a key driver in the transformation of industrial and logistics systems. In particular, it enables the real-time connection of large numbers of devices, improves the reliability of data exchanges, and facilitates the automation of many processes.

These capabilities pave the way for new applications in industrial and port environments, such as predictive maintenance, advanced robotics, intelligent logistics flow management, and energy optimization of facilities.

In the Dunkirk region, these innovation dynamics are part of a trajectory initiated by ArcelorMittal France, the first major local stakeholder to embrace the potential of 5G applied to industry. The company played a pioneering role by launching some of the earliest experiments involving the deployment of industrial 5G networks at its Dunkirk site to improve operational performance and safety. This forward-looking approach helped concretely demonstrate the benefits of 5G for complex industrial environments and paved the way for broader mobilization among local stakeholders, particularly the Dunkirk Urban Community and the Port of Dunkirk, around the development of new digital applications.

A project serving diversification and the strengthening of the economic fabric

The creation of this 5G Campus is also part of a broader strategy aimed at diversifying and strengthening Dunkirk's economic fabric. By encouraging the emergence of new skills and supporting the creation of innovative companies, the project will help strengthen interactions between industry, digital technologies, and innovation.

This momentum will foster technological entrepreneurship, attract new talent, and develop solutions that can benefit all industrial and port-related companies. Through this ecosystem, Dunkirk aims to strengthen its position as a territory for experimentation and innovation serving major industrial and energy transitions.

Dunkirk confirms its role as a pioneering territory

With the creation of this 5G Campus, Dunkirk marks another success in transforming its economic and industrial model. This initiative illustrates the territory's ability to anticipate technological changes and to lead structuring projects that support its development.

It also demonstrates the strength of the partnership between local authorities, industrial companies, innovation stakeholders, and training organizations working together to foster new economic dynamics. By combining their expertise and resources, these partners are helping make Dunkirk a pioneering, innovative, and attractive territory capable of supporting major industrial transformations and strengthening the influence of the Dunkirk economic basin at both regional and national levels.