



45 Experiments
involving
industry

 **141**

Experiments with
industrial relevance

40
Publications with
industrial co-authors

The Industrial Liaison Unit (ILU) acts as the interface between the ILL's scientific activities and industry. Its role is to promote the ILL's advanced characterisation capabilities to potential industry clients, and facilitate access. Working with industry is important for the ILL as a way of demonstrating its broader societal relevance and impact. Whilst the main focus of the ILL will always be scientific excellence, industrial collaborations generate important direct and indirect socio-economic benefits that cannot be achieved without industry's participation. This reinforces the ILL's philosophy of producing 'neutrons for society'.

2023 was a busy year for industrial access at the ILL. There were 141 scheduled experiments within the user programme that self-declared some form of industrial relevance. Within this group, twenty-two user experiments took place during the year that involved at least one proposer from industry. These correspond to non-proprietary access through the ILL's standard user programme. A further twenty proprietary industry experiments took place in 2023 permitting our industrial clients dedicated access, scientific support and data confidentiality.

Almost every industrial sector was represented within the broad range of companies using the ILL's state-of-the-art facilities in 2023. This included pharmaceuticals, materials science, consumer products, electronics, aerospace and renewable energies – specifically hydrogen power technologies and battery storage. This gives a holistic view of where the advanced capabilities of the ILL and the expertise of its staff can bring value to industrial activities, such as new product development, industrial R&D, process optimisation and quality control. Amongst the many companies who accessed the ILL's instruments through our standard user programme in 2023 were BASF, AstraZeneca, Proctor & Gamble, Seagate and Siemens Gamesa. Companies accessing through the user programme do so through an open-call proposal system where the proposal details are in the public domain.

2023 saw some significant staff changes within the ILU with the departure of Caroline Boudou and the arrival of Richard Davies. Richard brings to the role a strong background in industrial innovation, new product development and R&D, having held leadership roles within industry in those areas. 2023 also saw the departure of Manon Letiche. Although Manon was not directly part of the ILU, she supported industrial access at the ILL through her role as the TENIS instrument responsible (an instrument dedicated to industrial applications in the electronics industry, and funded through IRT Nanoelec). Manon's replacement, Emmanuel Atukpor, joined the ILL in September and has already delivered a successful campaign of industrial experiments on TENIS.

A final point worth mentioning regarding the ILU is its role supporting the ILL's participation in national and international projects involving industry. The aforementioned **IRT Nanoelec** is one such example, with others including **ReMade**, **RADNEXT**, **BIG-MAP** and **EASI-STRESS**. Many of these high-profile projects receive funding through the European Union.