



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Large and Start up French technology players partner to found Cape Town French Tech Hub**

*French Minister of the Economy, Industry and Digital Affairs Emmanuel Macron announced Cape Town, one of the most innovative hub in Africa, as one of the 6 new “French Tech Hubs”*

**Cape Town, Paris – February 4th, 2015.**

In a gathering of over 500 representatives of the French Technology sector in Bercy, Paris French Minister of Economy, Industry and Digital Affairs Emmanuel Macron announced the creation of 6 new “French Tech Hubs”, adding to the 5 existing for nearly a year. Cape Town, South Africa therefore joins San Francisco, London, Tokyo, New York or Hong Kong amongst the host of these Hubs, located at the heart of the most innovative cities in the world. “La French Tech” is a increasingly powerful force aggregating thousands of companies, ranging from start ups to large technology groups, joining in an effort to cooperate and co innovate. “La French Tech” community was for instance the largest contingent of non american companies present at the 2016 Consumer Electronic shows in Las Vegas. According to the Deloitte Fast 500 EMEA annual ranking, France has the largest number of hyper-growth firms in the «Europe, Middle-East and Africa» area, for the sixth successive year.

The South African French Tech project aims at rapidly scaling up the capacity of the French Tech ecosystem to work with South African unique engineering talent and innovation skills to incubate and accelerate innovative technology ventures.

The initiative is supported by a group of leading French companies such as

Methys, Orange, Dassault System, Gemalto, Schneider Electric and Efront which are working in close cooperation with the Silicon Cape community, local and national South African agencies such as Wesgro, CiTi and SEDA .

**Elisabeth Barbier, Ambassador of France in South Africa**, said *“i am delighted that Cape Town has been designated as a ‘French Tech Hub’. This success rewards all the efforts made by a dynamic community of French entrepreneurs, rooted in Cape Town, who takes advantage of a leading innovation ecosystem in Africa. This success will also encourage business and human talent exchanges between France and South Africa, in innovation and especially in the digital industry”*.

**Tim Harris, CEO of Wesgro**, commented *“Wesgro welcomes the news that Cape Town has been selected as a new French Tech Hub. The French community in the Cape has made an outsized contribution to tech entrepreneurship and innovation in “Silicon Cape”, and we are thrilled that this contribution has been formally recognised by the French government. As the official tourism, trade and investment promotion agency for Cape Town and the Western Cape, Wesgro is responsible for promoting the Cape as the leading tech cluster in Africa. The designation of Cape Town as an official French Tech hub is an important vote of confidence in our tech ecosystem, and will help to drive investment, trade and technology transfers between our region and France.”*

**Daniel Guasco, Chairperson of the Silicon Cape Initiative** followed on *“Silicon Cape is hugely encouraged that the French government has chosen Cape Town as a new French Tech Hub. From our experience the work being driven by the French Government to globally establish the "French Tech" initiative is world class and we look forward to working closely to strengthen ties locally and internationally while furthermore continuing to build our flourishing tech ecosystem and cementing Cape Town as a leading tech cluster in Africa. -*

**Christophe Viarnaud, co-founder, Chief Executive Officer of Methys and Lead Ambassador of Cape Town French Tech**, added *“Methys has been investing for over 6 years in South Africa, through organic growth and acquisition. Most importantly, we have been able to generate through our Cape Town based incubator Methys Labs several successful start up projects leveraging on a wonderful combination of French Tech and South African innovation. Mobile*

*commerce start up Powertime for example recently won the Digiworld Award for start up of the Africa-Middle East region, demonstrating the leadership of South Africa in the field of mobile payments. Methys is very pleased to work with our partners at Dassault Systèmes, eFront, Gemalto, Orange, and Schneider Electric to deliver a vision of Cape Town as a major Hub for French Technology investment. We hope to attract to South Africa and to the ‘Silicon Cape’ R&D, development, and design centres for leading or innovative French Tech companies, and help South African tech companies scale up with the support of the French Tech Network “*

**Yannick Decaux, South Africa Country Manager, Oranges Business Services** expanded *“France is ranked as the 9th largest investor in South Africa, with more than 300 French companies operating within the country. Obtaining the French Tech label shows that South Africa stands out as a major technological hub in Africa, and the world. We have been operating in South Africa and connecting South Africa to the World for 66 years and this recognition confirms the relevance of our decision to have South Africa as our regional headquarter for Africa.*

For more details:

[Website of the French Tech Hub in Cape Town](#)

Twitter: [@FrenchTech\\_CPT](#)

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/FrechTechCPT/?fref=ts>

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## ***About Wesgro***

Wesgro is the official Destination Marketing, Investment and Trade Promotion Agency for the Western Cape, located in Cape Town.

[www.wesgro.co.za](http://www.wesgro.co.za)

## ***About Silicon Cape***

[The Silicon Cape Initiative](http://www.siliconcape.co.za) is a non-profit, community owned and driven movement, that aims to improve the environment in the Western Cape to create more and better **startups** as well as increase access to capital

[www.siliconcape.co.za](http://www.siliconcape.co.za)

## ***About Methys***

Methys is an international Digital Transformation technology firm with operations in France, Benelux, UK, Tunisia and South Africa. Methys is focused on customer success, driving maximum business performance. Leveraging on partnerships with key technology providers and a rich set of methodologies blending functional and technological excellence, the passion of Methys people is about giving you the means to enhance the performance of your business.

[www.methys.com](http://www.methys.com)

## ***About Orange Business Services***

Orange Business Services, the Orange branch dedicated to B2B services, is not only a telecom operator, but also an IT solutions integrator and applications developer in France and around the world. Its 20,000 employees support companies in all areas of their digital transformation: mobile and collaborative workspaces; IT/cloud infrastructure; fixed and mobile connectivity; private and hybrid networks; applications for Internet of Things, 360° customer experience and Big Data analytics; and cybersecurity thanks to dedicated experts and infrastructure to protect information systems. More than 3,000 multinational organizations and 2 million SOHOs, enterprises and local authorities in France rely on Orange Business Services as their trusted partner.

Learn more at [www.orange-business.com](http://www.orange-business.com)

Orange is one of the world's leading telecommunications operators with annual sales of 39 billion euros in 2014 and has 157,000 employees worldwide at 30 September 2015. Orange is listed on the NYSE Euronext Paris (symbol ORA) and on the New York Stock Exchange (symbol ORAN).

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