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EU project set to deliver significant cost savings to consumers

The *Interreg France Channel England Programme* (FCE) has today (16 March 2017) announced that it will fund 1.283 million euros towards an economic development project that could lead to cost savings in the Channel area[4] of over 14 million euros. The project led by Engineering University, ESIGELEC in Rouen France, will develop two energy saving devices that can be used with smoke alarms and Wi-Fi routers to make them more energy efficient, resulting in sizable cost savings for consumers.

The project aims to find a greener alternative to the current smoke alarms on the market by creating a self-powered energy device that works by using ambient electromagnetic waves. This device can then be used in place of batteries, making smoke alarms more energy efficient and much more cost effective for consumers. With around 13.5 million smoke alarms in the France (Channel) England area alone (5.6 million in France and in 7.9 million England), annual energy savings could reach as much as 12.7MWh.

The project, known as SURFAS, will develop an additional device that will significantly increase the range of Wi-Fi signals produced by household routers without consuming additional power. The device would provide a more energy efficient alternative to the Wi-Fi boosters which are currently used to improve Wi-Fi signals. This could lead to an annual energy saving of 5.9GWh if all the 225,000 Wi-Fi boosters in the Channel area were replaced.

Once developed, the two devices will be shared with SMEs (more than 200 in the France (Channel) England zone) to encourage the uptake and long-term production of the devices after the project has ended.

Commenting on the announcement Constant Niamien from lead partner ESIGELEC said: "*I am delighted that this innovative project has been approved by the Interreg Programme. In addition to the greener impact of this project in the Channel area, I am confident that it will also help lead to new opportunities for SMEs and research groups in terms of new products, job creation and research collaborations*."

The project budget will total 1.859 million euros with 69% funded by the Interreg France (Channel) England programme, representing a European Regional Development Fund budget of 1.283 million euros. The project is made up of 6 organisations, 3 from France and 3 from the UK, and is expected to last three-and-a-half years.

-Ends-

For further information, please contact:

Titus Carey, FCE Communications Officer - +44 7452 924 800

The Interreg VA France (Channel) England Programme is financed by European Regional Development Funds

Notes to Editors

1. The Interreg FCE Programme is a European Territorial Cooperation programme that aims to fund high quality cooperation projects in the Channel border region between France and England. It focuses on a range of specific objectives including supporting innovation, improving the attractiveness of the FCE area and developing low carbon technologies. The Programme has a total of €223 million of ERDF funds to distribute by 2023 and is managed by Managing Authority Norfolk County Council.
2. Project approval is subject to the Grant Offer Letter being signed.
3. Project Partners:
    - Lead partner: ESIGELEC (France)
    - University of Kent (UK)
    - Greensystech (France)
    - Projaction (France)
    - Intrinsiq Materials (UK)
    - University of Surrey (UK)
4. The Programme operates within a clearly defined eligible area, covering the South and East Coasts of England from Cornwall to Norfolk, and the North Coast of France from Finistère to Pas-de-Calais. The programme area can be found here.
5. More information about the Programme can be found at https://interreg5a-fce.eu/.