

PRESS RELEASE

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NGE launches its “Cercle Innovation”: An operational accelerator for start-ups to drive ecological transition solutions in the construction sector

At the Pollutec trade fair, NGE – France’s fourth-largest construction group – is bringing together the ten founding start-ups of its new *Cercle Innovation*. Officially launching in early 2026, this unique initiative aims to bring together 1,000 start-ups by 2030. Its promise: to turn prototypes into real-world solutions, leveraging NGE’s nationwide presence and multi-disciplinary expertise.

The *Cercle Innovation* represents a real shift in how start-ups are integrated into the construction industry. Whereas many players limit themselves to testing or demonstrating solutions, NGE acts as a true operational accelerator: start-ups contribute their technology, and NGE enables them to move directly to large-scale deployment on its clients’ sites.

From optimised water management systems and solar-integrated infrastructure to low-carbon building solutions, innovations rapidly find their way into real projects — delivering measurable environmental and economic impact.

A distinctive approach and an evolving collective

NGE does not take ownership of start-ups’ solutions; it empowers them to scale up. As they grow, the Group can entrust them with larger projects, creating a virtuous circle where innovation becomes a driver of tangible business outcomes.

This initiative forms part of NGE’s 2028 Business Plan, structured around five pillars: development of low-carbon mobility, preservation of natural resources, development and maintenance of territories, adaptation to climate change, and energy transition.

The *Cercle Innovation* is an open ecosystem for start-ups aligned with these priorities and capable of supporting NGE’s acceleration in these key areas — to ensure the success of its clients’ projects. Selected for their potential impact, participating start-ups benefit from comprehensive support: access to construction sites, technical expertise, human and financial resources, as well as connections with investment funds and partners such as *Le Village by CA*.

Each year, new start-ups will join the collective, strengthening its momentum and turning innovation into reality.

"We are convinced that innovation only has value when it translates into practical solutions for local areas. By opening up our clients' sites, our expertise and our network to start-ups, we are creating an environment in which they can accelerate their development while addressing major ecological and social challenges. It is this collective, pragmatic approach that gives NGE its strength, enabling us to build sustainable, useful projects that meet real needs." **Romuald Hugues, Member of NGE's Executive Committee, Group Innovation Lead**

"With the Cercle Innovation we are moving from a first group of ten founding start-ups today to a target of 100 by the end of 2026, and 1,000 by 2030. Our ambition is not just to test solutions but to deploy them concretely on our sites and projects, on a larger scale, to generate a real and lasting impact." **Josselin Quignon, Innovation Director**

The ten founding start-ups of the "Cercle Innovation" by NGE

Bamboo For Life – Plant-based wastewater treatment using bamboo: zero sludge, biomass production, carbon sequestration, natural cooling.

Cactile – Roofs, façades and fences turned into controllable rainwater reservoirs, pump-free, reducing potable water consumption.

CAD42 – On-site sensors and AI for real-time safety monitoring, productivity gains, and integrated environmental tracking.

Kolektivolt – Shared charging stations for collective housing, *Cocharging®* service, installation and management included, pay-per-use model, shared infrastructure.

Regenbox – Diagnostic and regeneration terminal for disposable alkaline batteries: extends lifespan, reduces waste and carbon footprint.

Rezoprocess (Geolead) – Video surveys of public networks using photogrammetry: precise geo-referencing, 3D/orthophoto outputs, faster and more cost-effective.

RoofUp – Elevated photovoltaic platforms for flat urban roofs: overcomes technical constraints, boosts energy autonomy, supports self-consumption or resale.

Skysun – B2B photovoltaic solutions with third-party financing: panels on roofs or car parks, no upfront investment, fixed-rate green electricity.

TCP (The Cross Product) – Automated processing of railway LiDAR point clouds: classification, modelling, geometric measurement, risk analysis.

Up&Charge – Wireless charging via induction: ground station and under-vehicle kit, activated via app, accessible and autonomous.

About NGE

NGE – New Generations of Entrepreneurs – the fourth largest construction group in France, builds major infrastructures and urban or local projects. With its expertise in financing, design, construction, and maintenance, the Group is a key player in delivering infrastructures that address the economic and ecological challenges of the territories. Its entrepreneurial drive is supported by a strong employee ownership structure (the founders, management, and employees hold 72% of the Group's capital) reinforced by Montefiore Investment, a leading French investment firm (28% of the capital). With a turnover of 4.6 billion euros, NGE operates in 20 countries, supporting private and public clients in financing, designing, and building their transition projects in water, mobility, urban renovation, energy, and telecommunications. NGE's 24,000 employees are proud to contribute to building infrastructures that change the world.

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