



## **CNRS Response to the introduction of Technology Infrastructures in the European R&I ecosystem**

### **CNRS and research infrastructures**

Research infrastructures (RIs) appear as a key pillar for both the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) strategy and the Europe's research strategy. RIs encompass a wide range of areas and bring together various scientific communities, thereby fostering cooperation, interdisciplinarity and large-scale innovation. The CNRS is leading or co-leading several platforms and 80% of RIs listed in the [French national strategy on research infrastructures](#) with some of these RIs included in the ESFRI roadmap. These infrastructures provide equipment, software, cutting-edge scientific expertise and services unrivalled in certain fields. For some RIs, up to 30% of their activities - for certain components - are open to research and industrial partnerships.

### **Introduction of technology infrastructures in the European R&I landscape**

Technology infrastructures (TIs) were initially introduced in the European Commission's proposal for the next framework programme for research and innovation 2028-2034 (FP10). The definition is later formalised with the launch of the [European strategy on research and technology infrastructures](#) which aims to reinforce the European stance in scientific excellence and innovative technologies. The published document defines TIs as facilities, equipment or resources accessible to industry and designed to test, develop, validate and scale up technologies for industrial innovation and commercialisation. While the definition could be further improved, many existing CNRS-led RIs meet the listed criteria.

Funding TIs under the FP10 offers a valuable opportunity for both the academic and industrial sectors while ensuring a continuum between RIs and TIs throughout the various phases of project development. Yet, the CNRS emphasises that the scientific research conducted in RIs remains its priority and primary purpose. Therefore, the development of TIs must not occur at the expense of RIs, particularly with regards to fundings. A significant part of the budget allocated to infrastructures must be ringfenced for RIs funding. The CNRS encourages the potential implementation of an "RI-TI dual label" for RIs demonstrating industrial openness and interest in scaling up at the European level. This financial support would help strengthen the technological outreach of selected RIs without undermining their research activities.