



Launch of Unilis Agtech: a new financial and technical partner for Agtech entrepreneurs

Joint-venture between Unigrains and Arvalis, Unilis Agtech aims to accelerate technological innovation in service of value-creating and resilient agriculture

Endowed with 4 million euros, Unilis Agtech will support a dozen start-ups

Paris January 30th, 2020 – ARVALIS – *Institut du végétal*, the leading European technical institute for arable crops and UNIGRAINS, the reference partner for agri-food companies, join forces to create UNILIS AGTECH, offering technical and financial supports as well as the strength of their networks to Agtech entrepreneurs.

The French grain industry in service of innovation

Unilis Agtech will accompany young, innovative agrotechnology companies in order to accelerate the optimization and adoption of their solutions for the production of row crops and forage crops.

The companies sought by Unilis Agtech are developing solutions applicable to French farming systems, whether they are based in France or abroad, and have completed proof of concept. They have formed teams to carry out their ambitions in innovative fields such as digital agriculture, agro-equipment, plant nutrition and protection, or any other relevant solution for the sustainable improvement of systems be it at field, farm or regional scale.

Personalized support

After selection by a jury, entrepreneurs will discuss with Unilis Agtech on the specific terms of support, covering three main axes:

- technical support of Arvalis and network available through its 27 sites
- adapted financial support in equity or quasi-equity
- access to a large network of mentors and committed experts

Interested companies can now apply on the website: www.unilis.fr.

Eric Thirouin, President of Unilis Agtech, declared: *"Farmers are once again demonstrating their willingness to be a driving force in seeking out and implementing new solutions. By associating Arvalis and Unigrains we are joining with the AGPB and the AGPM the efforts of two pillars of our sector to accelerate technological innovation in service of value-creating and resilient agriculture."*

Anne-Claire Vial, Vice-President of Unilis Agtech, added: *« Within this new support channel for young, innovative companies, Arvalis and Unigrains will bring value through the expertise of their teams, their respective know-how, the strength of their networks and deep understanding of go-to-market logic. »*

Alexandre Biau and Romain Val, respectively **CEO** and **Deputy CEO of Unilis Agtech** concluded: *"To succeed, young, innovative companies must be able to rely on involved, experienced and long-term partners. This is the framework that we offer at Unilis and which will ensure that their innovations arrive safely on the market, ultimately benefiting farmers."*

A propos d'Unigrains

For over 55 years, Unigrains has accompanied the development of agri-food and agro-industry companies providing tailor-made financial solutions in equity and quasi-equity, as well as contributing its recognized industry expertise. Unigrains manages roughly 1 billion euros and is a partner for nearly 120 companies, operating at various stages of their development, notably capital restructurings, strategic investments and acquisitions, and ensuring national and international growth.

For more information: www.unigrains.fr

About ARVALIS – *Institut du végétal*

ARVALIS – *Institut du végétal*: applied agricultural research for farmers and their sectors

ARVALIS - *Institut du végétal*, is an applied agricultural research organization working on straw cereals, corn, sorghum, potatoes, fodder, flax fiber and tobacco. Its mission is to mobilize its expertise to allow the emergence of production systems that reconcile, across France, economic performance, adaptation to markets and positive contribution to environment issues. Arvalis studies cultures on all scales: genetic, plant, plot, farm region – and mobilizes multiple skills and numerous partnerships.

Discover Arvalis in 3 minutes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBjclrnGaUU&t=134s>

Press contacts:

- **Unigrains** : Ari Levine / alevine@unigrains.fr / 06 69 20 79 19
- **Arvalis** : Xavier Gautier / x.gautier@arvalis.fr / 06 80 31 31 53