1. French stimulus package, adopted in December 2008, increases to 26 billion euros

2. The stimulus package is part of a series of measures taken by President Sarkozy and the French government to stimulate the economy and support growth

In total, approximately 65 billion euros have been injected into the economy.

3. Since Summer 2008, the state has backed more than 320 billion euros in order to assure the stability of the bank system

4. In February 2009, Valérie Pécresse presented a stimulus package plan including 731 million euros for higher education and research

Before the stimulus package, the budget for higher education and research increased by 6.5 percent, or 1.8 billion dollars. With the whole of the new allocations—those from the finance law and those from the stimulus package—the budget now has grown 26 percent.

In its plan for higher education, the stimulus package will play an accelerator role by making work and study conditions more attractive. It will allocate 47 million additional euros for room and board, double the funds devoted to university buildings, and accelerate Operation Campus.

In its plan for research, the stimulus package will allow:
— with 46 million additional euros in 2009 (see item 5 below), the acceleration of financing for large research infrastructures, and, for example, the acceleration of the prominence of Synchotron Soleil, GENCI’s supercomputing equipment, or the GANIL and Spiral radioactive ion protection systems in Caen;
— the assurance of security, renovation, and material provisions for research organizations, thanks to 20 million euros dedicated to these purposes,
— the acceleration of three specific domains fundamental to the competitiveness and excellence of French research. As such, in 2009 70 million euros will be dedicated to a "Nanotechnology Plan," 110 million euros for research on defense technologies, and 40 million euros for the environment

Finally, in addition to the 731 million, this year 3.8 billion euros will be allocated for businesses. Instead of doling out a research tax credit reimbursement that the business would have received over the next three years, the state will concentrate these funds in 2009 to help businesses deal with the crisis, prepare for the upswing, and follow their investments in research and innovation. This anticipated reimbursement will aid nearly 5,000 businesses, of which over 90 percent are small – to mid-sized businesses belonging to the service and industrial sectors. The economic situation has hit these businesses particularly hard.

In total, the French State is committing more than 4.5 billion euros in addition to the finance law, starting in 2009, for higher education and research in sectors in which the projects and needs, notably for the physical structures, will have a large impact on professionals, artisans, services, and innovative small and mid-sized businesses. And, as a result, on the rebounding of the French economy and job market.

5. The stimulus package in the domain of research : An agreement among 10 research organizations for 58.9 million euros

An agreement including 58.9 million supplementary euros was signed in April 2009 by Patrick Devedjian, the Prime Minister’s Minister in charge of the stimulus, Valérie Pécresse, Minister of Higher Education and Research, and 10 research organizations. Thanks to the stimulus package, the State’s aid to these
organizations was bumped to a total of 325 million euros in 2009, an increase of 5.4 percent instead of pre-stimulus rate of 3.7 percent.

This agreement will allow:
— the acceleration of investments in very large research infrastructures (TGIR) thanks to 46 million supplementary euros. The 2009 budget for these investments will increase by 17 percent thanks to the stimulus package,
— the preparation of building and facility operations (notably in terms of security) and heavy equipment, of which some belong to the CPER for 12.9 million euros.

This supplementary 58.9 million euro effort is part of the funds dedicated in the stimulus package for research, the total of which is 286 million euros, which is in turn part of the 730 million euro-package for higher education and research. These funds, specifically meant for high level preparations, are in addition to 220 million euros of new credits at the disposal of research organizations in adherence with the initial finance law (credits generally dedicated to the improvement of personnel careers, the structuring of institutes, and the functioning of laboratories) These funds are also in addition to the 45 million euros that CEA will receive as part of the nanotechnology plan.

This aspect of the stimulus package will touché the economy in three ways, because the financing will benefit:
— French and European researchers, in the public and private spheres, who will have quicker access to high-performing equipment that will improve their research and work;
— High technology businesses that develop this equipment, often at the cutting edge of technology;
— The building and construction sector.