

Introduction

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The **Office for Science and Technology (OST)**, a team of 24 staff members including professors, senior researchers and engineers located in the Embassy (Washington, DC) and 6 consular offices (Atlanta - Boston - Chicago - Houston - Los Angeles - San Francisco) is dedicated to bilateral FR-US collaborations in Science and Technology.

The OST's main priorities:

- **Monitor and report** advances in Science and Technology in the US through newsletters and diplomatic channels
- Promote bilateral partnerships in science, technology and innovation
- Foster exchanges and increase mobility of researchers, doctoral students and entrepreneurs
- Serve as a liaison between French and American academic and scientific organizations as well as between the two countries' central governments and the European Delegation
- Increase the visibility of France's foremost laboratories, universities and start-ups
- Support young innovative companies and the internationalization of competitiveness clusters

Close collaboration between the OST and other diplomatic divisions, such as the Economic Department, the Cultural Services of the Embassy of France as well as French Research Organizations (**CNRS**, **Inserm**, **CNES**, **CEA**), allows the OST to efficiently handle the many economic and social implications of current science and technology issues.

France-USA bilateral agreements in Science & Technology

Two agreements in Science and Technology were signed in 2008: one for general **Science & Technology cooperation**, and one related to **homeland security issues**.

They constitute a clear political willingness to cooperate, a means of defining priorities in collaboration and exchanges, a context in which to establish new cooperative efforts, and a way to establish standards regarding intellectual property.

Examples of OST initiatives, programs and events:



Chateaubriand Fellowship (STEM)

: enables US PhD students to work for up to 9 months in a French partner laboratory (more than 120 fellows since 2010).



NETVA

(New Technology Venture Accelerator): accelerates the internationalization of French innovative start-ups through intense entrepreneurial training in the US.



YEi

(Young Entrepreneurs Initiative): since 2005, has helped 230 US-based innovative start-ups develop and create partnerships in France.



FAID

(French-American Innovation Day): annual event which brings together scientists, industry representatives and investors to exchange views on a specific technological issue.



The FADEx

(French-American Doctoral Exchange) program created in 2014 aims to enhance scientific exchanges between American and French Ph.D. students working in the same field of research in order to encourage the development of French-American collaborations. This program also serves as an opportunity for American students to better understand the French research system.



France-Atlanta

: since 2010, the OST has organized scientific workshops during the France-Atlanta conferences. This event is co-organized by the Consulate General of France in Atlanta and the Georgia Institute of Technology and is centered on innovation and designed to foster French-American cooperation and synergetic exchange in the southeastern U.S.



Science Breakfasts of the Science Diplomats Club

: prominent members of the US community are invited to address science advisors from foreign embassies. Recent speakers include: under secretaries of DHS & DOE and directors of Federal agencies.



Café des Sciences

: a series of scientific talks in French or in English, organized by scientific attachés around the United States. These events are free and open to the public.

Research and Innovation in France

France introduced major changes to its research, higher education and innovation system:

- Competitive funding agency called the [National Research Agency \(ANR\)](#).
- Decentralization process: Universities have been granted more autonomy, to design their strategies and engage in international partnerships.
- Investments for the Future: University endowments, campuses of excellence, seed funds for innovation, clustering programs, etc.
- Joint Laboratories established in Chemistry, Environment, Molecular Biology, etc. with the French research organizations CNRS, Inserm and INRIA.

Recent International prizes and distinctions:

- 2014 Charles Stark Draper Prize for Engineering, [Rachid Yazami](#)
- 2012 Nobel Prize in Physics, [Serge Haroche](#) (shared with David Wineland, USA)
- 2012 Vetlesen Prize (Earth and Universe Sciences), [Jean Jouzel](#)
- 2011 Nobel Prize in Medicine, [Jules Hoffmann](#) (shared with Ralph Steinman, Canada)
- 2010 Fields Medal, [Cédric Villani and Ngo Bao Chau](#)
- 2008 Nobel Prize in Medicine, Françoise Barré-Sinoussi and Luc Montagnier (with Harald z Hausen, Germany)
- 2008 Turing Prize (Computer Science), Joseph Sifakis.
- 2007 Nobel Prize in Physics, Albert Fert (shared with Peter Grünberg, Germany)
- 2006 Fields Medal, Wendelin Werner;
- 2002 Fields Medal, Laurent Lafforgue;