



**URBAIN
des BOIS**



CREATION OF THE 'ECORCE' INDUSTRY CHAIR

Paris, April 17, 2023 – The establishment of an Industry Chair was announced at Forum International Bois Construction, a timber construction forum in Lille, by École Supérieure du Bois (ESB), Icade Promotion and its subsidiary Urbain des Bois, Eiffage Construction and Saint-Gobain Solutions France.

The 'Ecorce' Industry Chair aims to optimise, both technically and economically, multi-material solutions for timber construction with the goal of scaling them up in the property development sector and decarbonising construction.

Objectives:

- **Develop sets of innovative solutions** for timber construction, particularly for timber frame façades.
- **Propose additions to normative and regulatory frameworks** to facilitate the application of techniques that decarbonise construction.
- **Share newly acquired knowledge** to ramp up the use of these solutions.

Timber façades—a priority work stream

To begin its work, the Chair will focus on timber façades.

Based on feedback on past and current practices for building timber walls, both in France and abroad, the Chair's work will aim to develop optimised combinations of multi-material solutions for timber and CLT frame façades, integrating different types of interior and exterior finishes.

This initiative seeks to complement the existing body of knowledge on timber construction, particularly on façades. The objective of this work is to provide the scientific community with insights to help develop regulations and technical standards that are more sustainable and effective in addressing current challenges.

A Chair open to all industry players

By making this work available to all and adopting a collaborative approach, the founders of this Chair hope to involve the entire construction industry in scaling up the use of these new sustainable and optimised construction methods.

This Industry Chair, created for a renewable period of three years, is an opportunity for all stakeholders to deepen their expertise in this field and actively contribute to the transition towards more sustainable construction.

Messages from the founding members

Urbain des Bois is a real estate developer committed to decarbonising the construction process. We support the industry in developing the technical solutions needed to ramp up the ecological transition that the real estate value chain requires. We invest in research to bring about changes in practices and standards in a challenging economic environment. The Ecorce Chair is part of this strategy. We are firmly committed to making the Ecorce Chair a platform whose work brings together industry participants and is able to promote changes in construction practices and regulations.

Anne Fraisse, CEO of Urbain des Bois

*Working with companies to advance scientific knowledge of timber and its uses is part of **ESB**'s mission. This knowledge will be made available to a wider audience and inform the training programmes. Our goal is to stay ahead of the industry trends so that our graduates can lead the way in the innovative use of this noble material. ESB is honoured to partner with three major groups such as Eiffage, Saint-Gobain and Urbain des Bois.*

Arnaud Godevin, Head of ESB

*Building differently, with innovative, sustainable and environmentally friendly solutions, is the challenge that **Eiffage Construction** has set for itself. Our priority is to design eco-friendly buildings using renewable bio-based and low-carbon materials. The Ecorce Chair fully aligns with the Group's strategy as it involves future generations in construction innovation and the promotion of sustainable buildings that will retain their value over time.*

Christian Birbaud, Head of Industrialised Construction at Eiffage Construction

*The development of timber construction methods contributes to addressing the environmental, social and societal challenges we face. As a global leader in sustainable construction, **Saint-Gobain** fully supports this approach. As such, collaborative work at the Ecorce Chair will make it possible to propose new sustainable and innovative solutions that meet the needs of the entire industry.*

Arnaud Tractère, CEO of Saint-Gobain Solutions France

Why Ecorce?

The Ecorce Industry Chair contributes to updating regulations on timber construction, particularly on timber frame façades, in order to accelerate the decarbonisation of the construction process. Façades are the buildings' envelope, just as bark ('écorce' in French) is the protective envelope of trees.

For more information on the Ecorce Industry Chair, please contact:

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