

Press Release

Drones:

The European consortium PRESTIGIOUS launches a call for drone-related SMEs to help support their international growth

Rouen, 15 April 2021 – Launched in September 2020, the European consortium PRESTIGIOUS, headed by NAE, is unveiling its initial work and launching a call for drone-related SMEs to apply for support. The goal is to provide such support to at least one hundred SMEs working on drones in Europe in the next two years.

As a reminder, the goal of PRESTIGIOUS¹ is to support the competitiveness of European SMEs in the drone industry thanks to contributions from four European partners: Andalusia Aerospace (Spain), Cluster Drones Paris Region (France), NAE (France) and SKYWIN (Belgium), by providing SMEs with dedicated, tailor-made support for their international expansion.

PRESTIGIOUS will target two market segments with **high growth potential for European SMEs: Inspection and Security**, in both VLOS (visual line of sight) and BVLOS (beyond visual line of sight) applications, and focus on market opportunities in four non-European countries (Chile, Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea and Canada).

The consortium has initiated a survey on social media aimed at European companies in order to identify SMEs with a level of technological maturity that would enable them to participate in this value chain.

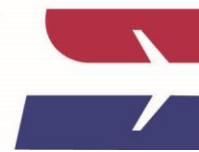
Companies can apply from now until 28 May 2021, and the hundred or so companies selected to receive support from PRESTIGIOUS should be announced in May 2021.

To participate, please **respond to the online survey starting now**: [click here](#) or on the QR code:

PRESTIGIOUS



¹ PRESTIGIOUS is an initiative of the European Union's Executive Agency for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (EASME)



The selected companies will receive custom support for their international growth in one of four target countries: Chile, Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea and Canada. The consortium will offer training seminars adapted to identified needs as well as the opportunity to establish contacts with strategic local actors. In addition, to strengthen European relations, the selected companies will have the opportunity to participate in exclusive B2B exchanges among European SMEs in the drone industry.

The second step consists in establishing a map of companies in order to identify synergies in each country. The goal is to verify their ability to address the drone market in its entirety.

At the same time, in order to cover European drone businesses as broadly as possible, PRESTIGIOUS is deploying links with other major European clusters via its networks² DGAC, EACP and ECCP. About 40 clusters have already been identified thanks to EACP.

About 40 companies have already responded, but **the consortium partners are today launching a call to drone-related companies whose technologies could help enrich this map.**

Download a visual: <https://zupimages.net/viewer.php?id=20/40/50qf.png>
Photo credit: Squadrone System

NAE press inquiries

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About NAE:

NAE is the network for air, space, defense and security businesses in Normandy. Founded in 1998 and chaired by Philippe Eudeline, NAE currently has 160 members: major industrial groups, several airports, a military base, many SMEs/SMIs, start-ups, research laboratories and schools. The network has more than 21,500 employees around the world, with sales of 3.7 billion euros in 2019 in Normandy. NAE is a member of GIFAS, GICAT and GICAN. **www.nae.fr**

² DGAC: Direction Générale de l'Aviation Civile (French General Directorate of Civil Aviation) / EACP : European Aerospace Cluster Partnership / ECCP : European Cluster Collaboration Platform

