

<press release>

New model: in just one year, the number of business clients in the b<com technological research institute membership has increased twofold

Rennes, January 9, 2026 - **An innovation driver serving the needs of business clients, the b<com technological research institute announces the addition of three new small- to intermediate-size businesses to its circle of investors.**

This development further consolidates our role as a key, agile partner, capable of supporting manufacturers of all sizes in the roll-out of cutting-edge technologies. This attractive positioning is the fruit of the transformation undertaken by b<com in 2025 to better meet the needs of manufacturers, in particular smaller organizations.

A transformation that is bearing fruit

Over the past year, the b<com technological research institute has reworked its operating model to respond in real time to the needs of business clients and become an effective mechanism for avoiding innovation risks and establishing technological sovereignty. That transformation has taken the form of simplified access to intellectual property, as well as new resources and methods (optimized work processes, shorter R&D project time frames, etc.) to better meet the needs of manufacturers.

As key players in the governance of the technological research institute, those manufacturers also ensure market-driven innovation, where each project responds to identified needs. The complementary relationship between small businesses and major corporations within b<com's circle of investors also creates a virtuous circle that helps strengthen the national and European digital ecosystem, while accelerating technological transitions.

That transformation has enabled b<com to welcome eight new members¹ into its circle of investors—including five small- to intermediate-size businesses²—in just one year: a record 100% increase in the number of business members.

Three new companies are added to b<com's innovation circle

Following in the wake of Insimo, Infogreen, Keyros Medica, Kinéis, and Octo Technology... Octomiro, Artefacto and Kerlink joined the innovation circle of the technological research institute in late 2025. The b<com [innovation circle](#) currently brings together some twenty businesses as well as around ten academic institutions.

Octomiro is a deeptech company that uses artificial intelligence and computer vision to give enterprise resource planning (ERP) "eyes and a brain". It is a start-up company working on an intelligent inventory system, capable of automatically identifying and counting objects, to facilitate the creation of digital twins. Working with teams from the technological research institute that specialize in image processing and AI, the company aims to improve the reliability of its learning model.

¹Major corporations, such as TDF, Orange, Airbus Defence & Space, Merce

²The eight new small- to intermediate-size businesses joining the b<com innovation circle in 2025 are Kinéis, Keyros Medica, Insimo, Infogreen, Octo Technology, Octomiro, Artefacto, and Kerlink.

"The R&D partnership we have signed with b<>com is strategically significant for Octomiro. It enables us to go further in key technological areas: such as the generic applicability of our model and the reliability of automated decisions in a real-world manufacturing environment. b<>com lets us transform high-level R&D into reliable technological building blocks that can be rolled out to our clients at an industrial scale," explained **Abdelkarim Ben Farhat**, Chairman of Octomiro.

Artefacto is a well-known local small business specializing in the production of immersive augmented- and virtual-reality content. The company is developing a solution for configuring and visualizing wind-power and photovoltaic projects in augmented reality, requiring the removal of certain real-world objects to visually enhance the realism of the integration of the envisaged project into its environment. The collaboration with b<>com will focus on transposing this real-time reduced reality function to a smartphone application.

Lastly, **Kerlink**, a provider of IoT connectivity solutions, is currently conducting a feasibility study with b<>com's team of experts to develop an embedded AI dedicated to maintenance in a manufacturing environment, based on real-time analysis of the vibration signals emitted by machines.

"At b<>com, we firmly believe that small- and intermediate-size businesses should have faster and more effective access to cutting-edge innovation. That is what led us to rework our operating model to make it more agile and virtuous. And that gamble has paid off. In 2025, we welcomed eight new members, mostly small- to intermediate-size businesses. We have every intention of keeping up that momentum in 2026 by bringing onboard five new members and launching two new projects centered on connectivity and artificial intelligence by the end of the year," explained **Emmanuelle Garnaud-Gamache, General Manager of the b<>com technological research institute.**

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About b<>com

As a trusted research and innovation partner for businesses, b<>com is a Technology Research Institute (IRT) specializing in next-generation digital technologies for decarbonization: connectivity, AI, imaging, human factors, cloud computing, digital technology, and society.

Its collaborative model fosters both technology and competitiveness while mitigating the risks associated with innovation.

With its network of industrial and academic partners, b<>com and its investors develop innovative technologies for SMEs and large corporate groups across several sectors: Industry 5.0, defense, healthcare, cultural and creative industries, security, and agriculture.

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