

For further information, please contact:

Media Hotline: +46 31 337 2400

Press Relations: Rebecca Janzon, +46 31-337 3880; +46 727-173 880; rebecca.janzon@skf.com

SKF and INSA Lyon jointly create a Chair dedicated to the study of lubricated interfaces

Montigny, France, 29 May 2013: SKF and INSA Lyon announce the creation, of a Chair of Education and Research for a period of 6 years dedicated to the study of lubricated interfaces. The chair is supported by a sponsorship from the Foundation INSA Lyon.

The Chair called "Lubricated Interfaces for the Future" aims to explore the identification, modeling and understanding the behavior of lubricants in lubricated interfaces under extreme conditions.

"The SKF Group is strongly positioned in the field of aerospace through our business unit SKF Aerospace. INSA Lyon, through the LaMCoS* lab, wanted to create a Chair in order to strengthen this existing close partnership which was reflected in research contracts, including advanced work in the field of lubrication," says Alexander de Vries, Director for SKF Group Product Development.

The research topics will include lubricant fluids (from rheology to lubrication), and lubrication mechanisms (from molecular mechanisms to lubrication and free surface flows in lubrication) and fluid / solid interactions. Lubrication is often a complex mechanism (by its own nature or by the composition of the lubricants), which plays a crucial role in reducing friction losses and reducing wear and the risk of damage. This is especially true in aerospace applications.

"The launch of a Chair, supported by the Foundation INSA Lyon is the result of a relationship of trust and a successful partnership established for more than 12 years between the LaMCoS laboratory and SKF R&D. This new cooperation framework will promote the development of multidisciplinary research in the field of engineering sciences, will attract the best researchers, and increase awareness of both partners, academia and industry," says Philippe Vergne, Research Director, LaMCoS.

This international Chair is under the dual leadership of Philippe Vergne, head of "LaMCoS" a research laboratory dedicated to the mechanics of contacts and structures, and Guillermo E. Morales Espejel, SKF Principal Scientist on Tribology, Lubrication and Bearing Life, Visiting Professor at LaMCoS since 2004.

"The development of the *Tribogyr* test rig at LaMCoS has been a major milestone of our long term cooperation. It is the largest and most sophisticated test machine ever built to measure friction and lubrication film thickness in heavily loaded spinning contacts. It provides to SKF a better understanding of lubrication in medium and large size bearings. It is now time to extend the success of this cooperation to wider areas and with deeper knowledge," says Guillermo E. Morales.

* LaMCoS : Laboratoire de Mécanique des Contacts et des Structures

"The creation of this Chair with SKF Group, under the sponsorship reinforces the means and know-how as INSA Lyon in science than in training. The image and the expertise of SKF Aerospace also help strengthen the international influence of the INSA Lyon," says Eric Maurincombe, director INSA of Lyon.

One of the objectives of this Chair is to anticipate future developments dictated by economic, societal, and environmental constraints. Responding to societal challenges in energy, sustainable development, and transport, this Chair provides:

- a place for thinking on innovation issues,
- a support to the development of research and training excellence on an emerging theme,
- a high-level research for SKF strategy,
- a support to the image SKF, to establish its reputation and employer brand among engineering students INSA of the Lyon.

The Chair is also responsible for contributing to educational activities in connection with its expertise in promoting the transfer of knowledge and skills among both engineering students and PhD students of INSA Lyon, researchers LaMCoS, that with teams of R & D SKF.

Aktiebolaget SKF
(publ)

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