

Press release

For immediate release

London, 16 September 2015

French trade delegation heads to Manchester on 16 September

The French Ambassador to the UK, HE Ms Sylvie Bermann, and the President of the French Chamber of Great Britain and Senior Executive Vice-President UK & Ireland of Veolia, Estelle Brachlianoff, are leading a delegation of French business leaders to Manchester on 16 September.

A delegation of French Chamber member companies, together with representatives from the French Embassy and the French Chamber of Great Britain, will be meeting local authorities at the highest level with the aim of fostering relationships and finding out more about Manchester's business and investment landscape. The companies represented include Altran, Banque Transatlantique, Capgemini, ENGIE, Crédit Agricole CIB, Frenger International, JCDecaux, Keolis, PwC, Swinton Insurance, Thales, Tikehau Investment Limited and Veolia.

Some of these companies – namely Altran, Capgemini, ENGIE, JCDecaux, Keolis, PwC, Swinton Insurance, Thales and Veolia – already have a presence or are involved in projects in Manchester. The others are interested in meeting the local authorities and exploring opportunities for business and investment.

Jointly organised by the French Chamber of Great Britain and Manchester City Council, the trip is sponsored by PwC and Swinton Insurance.

The day's programme, which was put together by Manchester City Council, begins with a courtesy call to Councillor Paul Murphy, Lord Mayor of Manchester, at the Town Hall. The delegation will then move on to Manchester Central Library for presentations on Greater Manchester devolution and the Northern Powerhouse, transport infrastructure in the North and how to do business in Manchester. Sir Richard Leese, Leader of the Council, will be accompanying the delegation for a lunch with French companies already established within Manchester.

In the afternoon, the delegation will tour MediaCity UK, a new hub for creative, digital and media businesses, with the BBC as its main tenant, which will provide an overview of creative and digital development and opportunities. The day will conclude with a visit to the National Graphene Institute at the University of Manchester, where presentations will be made on this 2D form of carbon and other advanced materials, nuclear capabilities and links to French companies as well as overviews of the University and Manchester Business School.

This trip to Manchester follows very successful trade delegations to Birmingham in 2011, Leeds in 2012 and Scotland in 2013 and forms part of the French Chamber's strategy of developing relationships and business opportunities, not only in London but also on a countrywide basis, to help forge links of mutual benefit.

Acknowledgements

The French Chamber of Great Britain would like to thank Manchester City Council as well as MIDAS for all their help and support in setting up the programme for the Chamber's Trade Delegation to Manchester on Wednesday 16 September 2015.

We would like to express our gratitude to PwC and Swinton Insurance for sponsoring the Trade Delegation.

We would also like to thank HE Ms Sylvie Bermann, for leading this delegation.

Finally, we would like to thank all the participants for joining us on this occasion. We hope it will be a great opportunity for them to develop their business contacts in Manchester.

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About the French Chamber of Great Britain

The French Chamber of Great Britain is the largest foreign Chamber in the UK in terms of both turnover and range of services offered. Our main aims are to provide a platform of exchange and networking at the service of Franco-British firms in the UK, to promote our 600 members' interests to key decision makers and to help develop economic and commercial relations between France and the UK. Our Business Consultancy and Business set-up departments provide both British and French companies with a large range of bespoke professional services.

