



PRESS RELEASE

Loos, 27 February 2020

Corporate Venture between C.S.T - Crime Science Technology and Covestro to become an innovation leader in securing identity documents

C.S.T. - Crime Science Technology, a gem of French Tech based in Lille, offers technologies which are revolutionising the industry of national security (working with national printing houses, the FBI, Scotland Yard and Interpol). It is now bringing into its capital the German company Covestro: this multinational base materials manufacturer is a strong player for the production of polycarbonate films used in the production of ID documents. Through this strategic partnership, C.S.T is aiming to scale up and accelerate the international go-to-market for its O.V.M[®] technology dedicated to securing identity documents and banknotes.

C.S.T is becoming a security feature provider, offering one of the widest ranges of innovative solutions to governments, national printing houses and manufacturers specialising in security printing. It is now entering the big league: each year, more than 250 million ID cards and 80 million passports are issued with incorporated polycarbonate. Approximately 180 billion banknotes are printed every year.

Through this corporate venture, Covestro entered C.S.T's capital in February 2020. Crime Science Technology remains a majority French capital owned company with its founder Cosimo Prete and historic shareholders. The capital fundraising amount remains confidential.

"This partnership with Covestro – a key player in the innovation of security films – allows us to step up our conquest of the international ID document industry and deploy our O.V.M[®] (Optical Variable Material) technology on a large scale. Our innovations meet the growing challenges facing the fight against document fraud and counterfeiting. This corporate venture operation is a clear sign of our disruptive edge and the reliability of our O.V.M[®] technology. Thanks to its robustness and easy checkability (at a glance), it has already earned the trust of many governments, law enforcement and security industry leaders worldwide. Supported by French Tech, C.S.T is now picking up speed and has participated in several ongoing tenders worldwide. Further innovations will be announced soon demonstrating the versatile and flexible nature of the technology for integration into various security-demanding carriers. New major references will be soon disclosed. Our innovations help to guarantee State sovereignty"

Cosimo Prete, Founder and President of C.S.T

"This investment strengthens our position as a driver of innovation in a changing market environment worldwide, faced with the challenge of increasingly sophisticated counterfeiting. By becoming the exclusive partner of the O.V.M[®] technology developed by C.S.T for Polycarbonate/TPU materials, Covestro completes its portfolio of high-tech films and solutions for secure ID documents. O.V.M[®] technology meets the needs of governments and law enforcement"

Dr Thorsten Dreier, Global Head of "Specialty Films" at Covestro.

C.S.T x COVESTRO:

The power of innovation in the fight against document fraud and counterfeiting

Founded in late 2010 and based in Eurasanté (Lille area), Crime Science and Technology (C.S.T) is led by a team of Security Industry experts. With the support of Covestro, it is now becoming a worldwide security feature provider, offering the widest range of innovative solutions to governments, national printing houses and manufacturers specialising in the production of ID documents and banknotes. Its solutions meet the growing demands in the fight against ID document fraud and counterfeiting. Security features that are identifiable at a glance, requiring no special devices, are evermore in demand to protect new-generation documents and to stay ahead of increasingly slick and innovative counterfeiting techniques.

OVM® (Optical Variable Material) is the innovative technology patented by C.S.T

O.V.M® (Optical Variable Material) technology secures raw materials and inks by combining chemical properties with optical effects. This new generation of security feature can be identified by any citizen in seconds (colour changes or shape changes) without the need for a device.

"We assemble molecules like Lego to give them unique properties. Our solutions enable easy, fast and reliable checks. They introduce a new generation of extremely strong security features which are visible to the naked eye and can counteract the most sophisticated counterfeiting techniques. Polycarbonate is the preferred material for the next generation of ID documents: the raw material is unmatched in terms of durability, resistance to delamination and customisation options. It is gradually replacing traditional paper, allowing the integration of transparent area and new security features into ID documents", stated Cosimo Prete, Founder and President of C.S.T

Covestro – a German leading manufacturer in polymer chemistry – has many years' experience in developing and manufacturing materials for ID documents (special identification films: Makrofol®ID / Platilon®ID / Dureflex®ID). As a key player in this advanced industry, Covestro provides industrial polymer films for the production of identification documents (ID cards, passports, driving licenses, etc.).

By joining C.S.T, Covestro now has access to the O.V.M® for Polycarbonate technology and TPU materials. Unique to the market, we have introduced a disruptive "3 in 1" security feature: a high efficiency level 1 feature and a robust level 2 feature, while also incorporating a laboratory-controlled level 3 feature.

A new chapter in the C.S.T success story: "Experts of French Tech Lille", the startup that's working with the FBI, Interpol and government printing works

Crime Science Technology is a technology company founded in 2010 by Cosimo Prete in Lille. The researcher from the University of Lille, with a background at the French National Forensic Institute (I.N.P.S - Institut National de la Police Scientifique), has a passion for innovation: he quickly established a collaboration with the University of Paris-Saclay focusing on fingerprint technology. Called "Lumicyano", this revolutionary method provides fast contrasted fingerprints compatible with DNA research. This innovation led the new company to win over the French Interior Ministry as well as European secret services and police forces such as Interpol, Scotland Yard and... the FBI! With this success, Cosimo Prete developed a second centre of expertise: to tackle counterfeiting. He teamed up with Jérôme Comar, a serial entrepreneur from the paper industry, who became the company's first partner and shareholder. At the second fundraiser, another associate was recruited: Gautier Alloyez, as executive director and identity documents expert. From the security industry, Gautier Alloyez worked at the IN Groupe (formerly Imprimerie Nationale, France's national printing house) and at IDEMIA (formerly Oberthur/Morpho). Three complementary profiles, combining R&D, industrial and commercial skills!

In 2018, C.S.T developed its second flagship innovation, dubbed "OVM®" (Variable Optical Material) for securing ID documents and banknotes.

Backed by the Hauts de France region through its various financial tools and Bpifrance, C.S.T also has the support of French Tech. By welcoming Covestro into its capital, C.S.T is aiming to step up its innovative solutions internationally for securing ID documents and banknotes. Crime Science Technology is a majority French capital company through its founder Cosimo Prete and historic shareholders.

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About C.S.T - Crime Science Technology:

Founded by a team of Security and Scientific Police industry experts, C.S.T develops and sells security features for ID documents and banknotes. C.S.T also develops innovative processes for revealing traces and clues to identify criminals. Validated by the French Interior Ministry, C.S.T's technology is used by Scientific Police experts worldwide on a daily basis.

For government identity documents and banknotes, C.S.T develops a range of level 1 security feature with unique visual properties to ensure rapid and intuitive authentication. By combining chemical properties and optical effects, these technologies represent a new generation of security features.

Go to www.crimesciencetechnology.com for more information

About Covestro:

With 2019 sales of EUR 12.4 billion, Covestro is among the world's largest polymer companies. Business activities are focused on the manufacture of high-tech polymer materials and the development of innovative solutions for products used in many areas of daily life. The main segments served are the automotive, construction, wood processing and furniture, and electrical and electronics industries. Other sectors include sports and leisure, cosmetics, health and the chemical industry itself. Covestro has 30 production sites worldwide and employs approximately 17,200 people (calculated as full-time equivalents) at the end of 2019.

Find more information at www.covestro.com