

Press release

December 5, 2016

Bouygues Construction and its WeLink women's network become new partners of *Elles bougent*

The *Elles bougent* association, which works to attract girls into scientific careers, is pleased to announce the arrival of a prestigious new partner: Bouygues Construction.

On December 5, a partnership agreement was signed between the *Elles bougent* association, Bouygues Construction and its women's network, WeLink. The aim of the partnership is to raise young women's awareness of professions in the construction industry through the involvement of the Group's female engineers and technicians, who will act as mentors for *Elles bougent*.

The partnership agreement was signed at the Bouygues Group's head office in Avenue Hoche, Paris, by **Jean-Manuel Soussan**, Executive Vice President of Bouygues Construction with responsibility for human resources and policy on corporate and social responsibility, **Catherine Gutknecht**, president of WeLink, the Group's network for women, and **Marie-Sophie Pawlak**, president and founder of *Elles bougent* ("Women on the move"). Around thirty guests attended, including representatives of other partner companies of *Elles bougent* and higher education establishments.



Speaking at the signing ceremony, Jean-Manuel Soussan encouraged women to show their ambition and stressed the importance of men and women being committed to issues of professional diversity and equal opportunities.

For more than ten years, *Elles bougent* has introduced schoolgirls and female students to exciting career paths as engineers and technicians. Its aim is to encourage ambitions so that these young women consider entering sectors of industry where there is a dearth of female talents, such as construction, energy, digital technology and transport. Catherine Gutknecht warmly welcomed the new partnership: "Our approaches are complementary and occur at different stages of women's careers. *Elles bougent* is concerned with young women at high school or in higher education, while the WeLink network supports women once they have joined the company so they can flourish, grow and help Bouygues Construction develop."

There are already approximately thirty female mentors in place at Bouygues Construction, engineers and technicians who have volunteered to talk to girls and young women about their professional experiences. A number of projects with the association are being planned, such as an *Elles bougent* quiz on Bouygues Construction's stand at the ESTP forum on December 13, talks given by Bouygues Construction mentors on January 24 at an event dedicated to the digital technology sector, and

awareness-raising initiatives to be held in all the Group's countries to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8. A major event dedicated to the construction sector is being scheduled for the 2017-2018 academic year.

About the *Elles bougent* association

For the past ten years, the *Elles bougent* association has introduced female high school students to potential career paths as engineers and technicians in a range of sectors of industry which are suffering from a lack of female talent, chiefly the automobile, aerospace, energy, rail, maritime, digital and building sectors.

The *Elles bougent* association, sponsored by four French ministries, consists of 17 regional teams, 100 partner companies, graduate schools and universities, a club for high schools and 2,200 female mentors. Marie-Sophie Pawlak is the president and founder of the association and Bruno Guillemet, Senior Vice President, Human Resources of the Valeo Group, is the honorary president. Find out more: www.ellesbougent.com – The *Elles bougent* association is on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

About WeLink

WeLink, the Bouygues Construction women's network, was created in 2012 to develop gender diversity in the company and promote access to positions of responsibility for women. Operating independently, the network provides personal development programmes, mentoring and networking that helps female employees to rise to the top of their professions in the construction industry. More than 570 of the Group's female managers are members, in Europe, Asia and North America.

About Bouygues Construction

Bouygues Construction is a global player in construction, with operations in more than 80 countries. It designs, builds and operates projects in the sectors of building, infrastructure and industry. As a responsible and committed leader in sustainable construction, Bouygues Construction sees innovation as its primary source of added value: this is "shared innovation" that benefits its customers at the same time as improving its productivity and the working conditions of its 50,000 employees. In 2015, Bouygues Construction generated sales of €12 billion.

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