

Press release

International Women's Day

## SPIE strengthens its *So'SPIE Ladies* mixed network

**Cergy, 2 March 2017** – *In the lead-up to International Women's Day, "So'SPIE Ladies", the SPIE internal network composed of men and women, is stepping up its action. In fostering the development of this network, SPIE, the independent European leader in multi-technical services in the areas of energy and communications, is confirming its priorities: to translate equality in the workplace into action, to promote mixed gender teams, to attract the best talent and to foster individual skills enhancement.*

### **Don't wait for International Women's Day to take action**

Set up in 2015, in two years the *So'SPIE Ladies* network has become a key player in terms of taking action to encourage a better gender mix in SPIE's teams. An event which is in line with the approach taken by this network, International Women's Day provides an opportunity to unite employees even more closely on the issue of equality in the workplace. On this occasion, at the Group's subsidiaries, each woman and man will be asked to take part in workshops, breakfast seminars, screenings of *So'SPIE Ladies* videos and competitions for the best idea promoting mixed gender teams. Accordingly, at some entities, on the day before 8 March, around ten role plays will be enacted with a view to raising teams' awareness for the purpose of combating stereotypes. All these initiatives will be circulated on the company's internal social network where several *So'SPIE Ladies* communities have already been set up.

### **The role of women in the company: an issue affecting everyone**

SPIE invests extensively in the promotion of equality in the workplace throughout the year. The European subsidiaries of SPIE seek to optimise the role of women, not only in positions of responsibility but also in the technical divisions. In order to achieve this objective, a range of key initiatives aimed at

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all employees has been rolled out over two years. Each division focuses on a particular initiative on the basis of its own priorities. Some of the proposals advocated by the network are workshops for sharing experience and brainstorming, seeking feedback from female SPIE staff, mentoring programmes and recruitment workshops dedicated to women.

Raising awareness among external partners is another priority. There are an increasing number of partnerships with engineering and management schools. Certain subsidiaries are also working with the “*Elles bougent*” association to undertake initiatives at educational establishments providing young women with information about career opportunities at SPIE.

### **“So’SPIE Ladies”: a local network**

At each subsidiary, the female *So’SPIE Ladies* pilote rolls out the initiatives within the network and reports regularly to the subsidiary's managing committee. Additionally, local female representatives act as a point of contact with officers to foster the optimisation of women's careers within the teams.

Frédérique Weber, head of department and “*So’SPIE Ladies*” pilote at the SPIE Nucléaire subsidiary, summarises the network's raison d'être as follows: “*to prove that we can achieve fulfilment at work, be well-integrated, even in technical fields, lift constraints so that we can break through the barriers and encourage women to apply for technical careers!*” .

### **About SPIE**

As the independent European leader in multi-technical services in the areas of energy and communications, SPIE supports its customers to design, build, operate and maintain energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly facilities.

With 38,000 employees working from close to 600 sites in 38 countries, SPIE achieved in 2015 consolidated revenues of €5.3 billion and consolidated EBITA of €351 million.

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