

Kyushu University established OPHELIA,
the international joint research laboratory with CNRS

Collaboration with the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)¹ and the Parisian Institute for Molecular Chemistry (IPCM; UMR 8232) at Sorbonne University has come to occupy a crucial position in the academic development of the Center for Organic Photonics and Electronics Research (OPERA)².

OPERA and the CNRS-IPCM launched research exchanges in 2015. To date, the collaboration has resulted in 50 co-authored papers and more than 100 exchanges of researchers and students. In 2023, the partnership was selected by the CNRS for an International Research Project (CNRS-IRP)³, and from April 2026, the Organic Photonics and Electronics International Laboratory (OPHELIA; IRL2043) was established within OPERA, becoming the 15th CNRS International Joint Laboratory (CNRS-IRL)⁴.

Looking ahead, OPHELIA aims to transform collaboration with a broad range of the CNRS departments and French higher education institutions, including universities, from the conventional 'point-to-point' exchanges to systematic and sustained 'network-based' cooperation. Through this approach, OPHELIA seeks to serve as a strategic hub for Japan-France joint research, advancing next-generation organic electronics research while training early-career researchers.

OPHELIA is co-directed by two directors, one from Japan and one from France. The Japanese director is Distinguished Professor Chihaya Adachi, director of OPERA at Kyushu University, and the French director is Dr. Fabrice Mathevet of the CNRS-IPCM. The OPHELIA office is located within OPERA at Kyushu University, serving as a symbol of this collaboration.

Notes

1) The National Centre for Scientific Research, *Le Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique* (CNRS), is France's largest public research organization. Established in 1939, it is one of the world's leading research institutions. Covering a broad range of research fields, including fundamental sciences (mathematics, physics, chemistry, engineering, and related disciplines), as well as humanities, and social sciences, the CNRS actively promotes international research collaboration by establishing joint research centers with universities and research institutions in France and abroad, as well as through researcher exchanges.

2) The Center for Organic Photonics and Electronics Research (OPERA) is a research center established at Kyushu University in 2012 that promotes research into optical and electronic devices based on organic semiconductor materials. By integrating the development of new materials, device development, and the elucidation of fundamental physical properties, OPERA aims to establish itself as a world-leading research center in organic optoelectronics.

3) The CNRS-IRP (International Research Project) is an international joint research program conducted by the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) in collaboration with overseas research institutions. It provides as a framework for promoting international research collaboration through joint research and researcher exchanges based on specific research themes.

4) The CNRS-IRL (International Research Laboratory) is an international joint research center established by the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) in partnership with overseas universities and research institutions. It aims to strengthen international research networks through researcher exchanges and the training of early-career researchers, while enabling researchers from partner institutions to conduct long-term collaborative research as a single research unit.

