

TEXAF DIGITAL CAMPUS OPENS FOR BUSINESS

One year ago, **TEXAF** announced its intention to make the digital economy its new platform for growth and its investment of EUR 1 million in the **PARTECH AFRICA** fund.

TEXAF plans to position itself as a key player in the digital sector in the DRC. **TEXAF's** ultimate objective will be to acquire stakes in growth companies. It will do this either through joint investment with **PARTECH AFRICA**, or by investing directly in Congolese companies or in African companies that it will introduce and support in the DRC. As the only listed company with all of its activities in the DRC, **TEXAF** will offer unique visibility to its partners.

Implementing this policy necessitates improving the training of those working in the digital economy, providing them with a framework in which to work, and equipping **TEXAF** with the means to monitor their ecosystem. A major step in making this policy a reality has now been taken with the opening of the **TEXAF DIGITAL CAMPUS** as well as the creation of a non-profit association of the same name, the purpose of which is to assist Congolese companies, or those established in the DRC, and support education and research in areas of the digital economy.

PARTECH (www.partechpartners.com) is one of the longest-established venture capital managers with an investment capacity of USD 1.2 billion. In January 2019, it raised USD 125 million for the **PARTECH AFRICA FUND**. To date, this fund has invested in nine African companies active in the digital sector, including Kudi, a leader in digital payments for the informal economy in Nigeria, Yoco, a South African fintech that provides payment terminals to small businesses, and TradeDepot, a FMCG (fast moving consumer goods) ordering platform for Nigerian retailers.



The **TEXAF DIGITAL CAMPUS** is primarily a co-working and training centre, located in a magnificent 700 m² Modernist building at the main intersection in Kinshasa. The building has been completely renovated over the last six months to transform it into a space specifically designed for entrepreneurs and trainees of the digital economy. It publicly highlights **TEXAF's** commitment to this new area of activity and purports to serve as the focal point in Kinshasa for both local entrepreneurs and international groups wishing to set up in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



KINSHASA DIGITAL (www.kinshasadigital.com) is the top digital agency in Kinshasa, co-founded by Nicolas Zanghi, Thomas Strouvens and Jean-Louis Mbaka. In addition to web development, it also organises, in collaboration with the Publicis Group, Open Innovation events in 6 African cities as well as a regional summit in Kinshasa that brings together several heads of state and tech leaders: African Digital Story.

However, it is also a nexus for collaboration with players in the sector. In this connection, an agreement was signed with **KINSHASA DIGITAL**, which is moving into the **TEXAF DIGITAL CAMPUS**, while **TEXAF** has become one of the main sponsors of events organised by this agency.

An example is the **KINSHASA DIGITAL ACADEMY**, which has recently begun its first class on the **TEXAF DIGITAL CAMPUS**. It offers a 7-month intensive training course in web and mobile development or digital advisor training following the teaching methods of the simplon.co network of learning centres. This initiative from **KINSHASA DIGITAL** has taken in 40 trainees (there will be 80 as from the second session), selected from more than 1,000 applicants, to provide training to equip them with the skills needed by the digital economy. This takes place in a spirit of social inclusion as the courses are free for the trainees and 40% of places are reserved for women. Each of the

trainees receives a scholarship of USD 5,500 (including computer equipment), covering all academic fees. These scholarships are financed by Congolese companies and organisations with the aim of hiring the graduates at the end of the course.



The first class of trainees of the Kinshasa Digital Academy during a visit by Ms Aida Ndiaye, Facebook Public Policy Lead Francophone Africa

The setting up of the **KINSHASA DIGITAL ACADEMY** was made possible by, among other things, financing provided to **TEXAF** and **KINSHASA DIGITAL** by the German development agency, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (www.giz.de). Facebook and Orange are also sponsoring this one-of-a-kind initiative in the DRC.



All of this will be extensively detailed at African Digital Story Brussels 2020, powered by **TEXAF** and CMCT TCG, which will take place on 21 February at the Africa Museum within the framework of **TEXAF's** partnership with this institution.

Highlights from the “2019 Africa Tech Venture Capital Report”

PARTECH AFRICA has just published its latest report on venture capital investment in Africa (available at www.partechpartners.com). The main conclusions are as follows:

- 2.02 billion of venture capital financing for African tech companies in 2019
- An increase of 74% compared with 2018
- 234 companies financed
- 358 investors
- 41% of investments in fintech
- 86% of investments in Nigeria, Kenya, Egypt and South Africa
- Partech is one of the 5 most active investors on the continent

TEXAF, established in 1925, is the only listed company with all its activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Currently, these are concentrated on property, quarries and the digital domain. This listing on the stock exchange and the resulting obligations in terms of good governance and transparency constitute a major asset of the Group for its development and for the promotion of the formal sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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