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# press release

## **GEODIS tests the Com'hand System, developed by the start-up Siatech, for controlling lifting machinery**

**GEODIS is testing the Com'hand system, which offers intuitive control capabilities for lifting and handling machinery, at a manufacturing site of Saint-Gobain.**

The innovative system has been developed by the technology start-up company Siatech and initial tests within a live logistics environment began in November 2016 at a site of *Distribution Sanitaire Chauffage*, subsidiary of *SAINT-GOBAIN Distribution Bâtiment France* in Hénin-Beaumont, northern France..

Created in April 2016 by Siatech's founders, the Com'hand system uses state-of-the-art digital sensor technology for controlling industrial machinery, in the first instance with application to cranes and gantries. Operators interact with the machinery using simple, intuitive arm motions, which are interpreted and transmitted by means of a bracelet fitted with motion sensors and worn on the wrist and also by a ring. Basically, the system offers greater simplicity in machine operation and improved control efficiency while avoiding the risk of loss or damage.

Instead of having to perform multiple, complex command actions using a heavy and cumbersome control unit, an operator using the Com'hand system can control the machine directly from the 'hand-worn' device. As well as producing increased efficiency (productivity gains of up to 20% over a conventional control unit have been achieved), the system also brings considerable improvements in safety and ergonomic comfort.

The initial tests have been successful and have allowed Siatech valuable feedback on the use of its technology in a practical logistics environment. Once the equipment is made available commercially, GEODIS could now consider introducing Com'hand across all its industrial logistics sites where lifting gantries are employed.

[Click here](#) to view initial tests carried out by GEODIS using the Com'hand system.



**SIATECH – [www.siatech.fr](http://www.siatech.fr)**

Siatech, which was quoted by French industry journal *L'Usine Nouvelle* in its “2016 Digital Technologies award”, is a French start-up founded in Rouen (northern France) by three young graduates from the ESIGELEC engineering school with the purpose of developing systems for simplifying machine control in industrial and domestic environments. The three founding members work from the AD Normandie business incubator and schedule market release for their product in early 2017.

**GEODIS – [www.geodis.com](http://www.geodis.com)**

GEODIS is a Supply Chain Operator ranking among the top companies in the field in Europe and the World. GEODIS, owned by SNCF Logistics, which in turn is a business line of the SNCF Group, is ranked as the number four logistics provider in Europe and number seven at a worldwide level. GEODIS is also listed as a “Leader” in Gartner’s 2016 Magic Quadrant of Worldwide 3PLs. GEODIS’ reach includes a direct presence in 67 countries and a global network spanning over 120 countries. With its five Lines of Business (Supply Chain Optimization, Freight Forwarding, Contract Logistics, Distribution & Express, and Road Transport), GEODIS manages its customers’ Supply Chain by providing end to end solutions enabled by over 39,500 employees, its infrastructure, its processes and systems. In 2016, GEODIS recorded €8 billion in sales.

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