

AI IN ENGLISH TEACHING: STILL A LONG JOURNEY AHEAD

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OVERVIEW

I. LANGUAGE CENTRES ORGANISATION IN THE FASF

II. COMPUTER LABS

III. THE SMARTSCHOOL PROJECT

1- SMARTSCHOOL SERVICES PORTAL

2- FUNCTIONAL COMPONENTS

IV. LC / SMARTSCHOOL PROJECT

V. PROJECT IN PROGRESS – ESP: AIRCRAFT MECHANICS

VI. AI TOOLS

VII. CONCLUSION

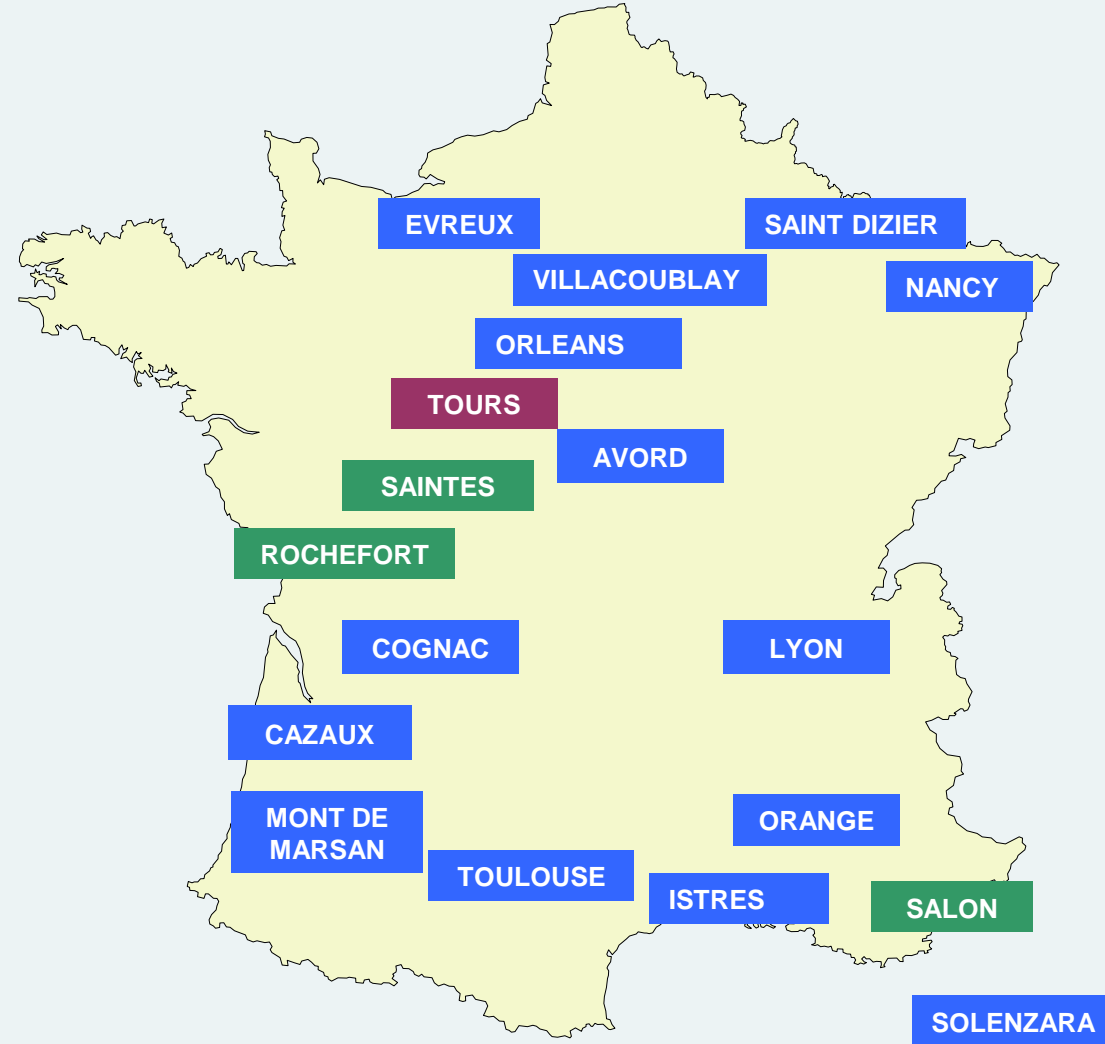


PART I: Language centres (LC) organisation in FASF

3 training schools

1 specialized
aeronautical
language centre
(CLAS)

14 language
centres (LC)



PART II: Computer Labs

History

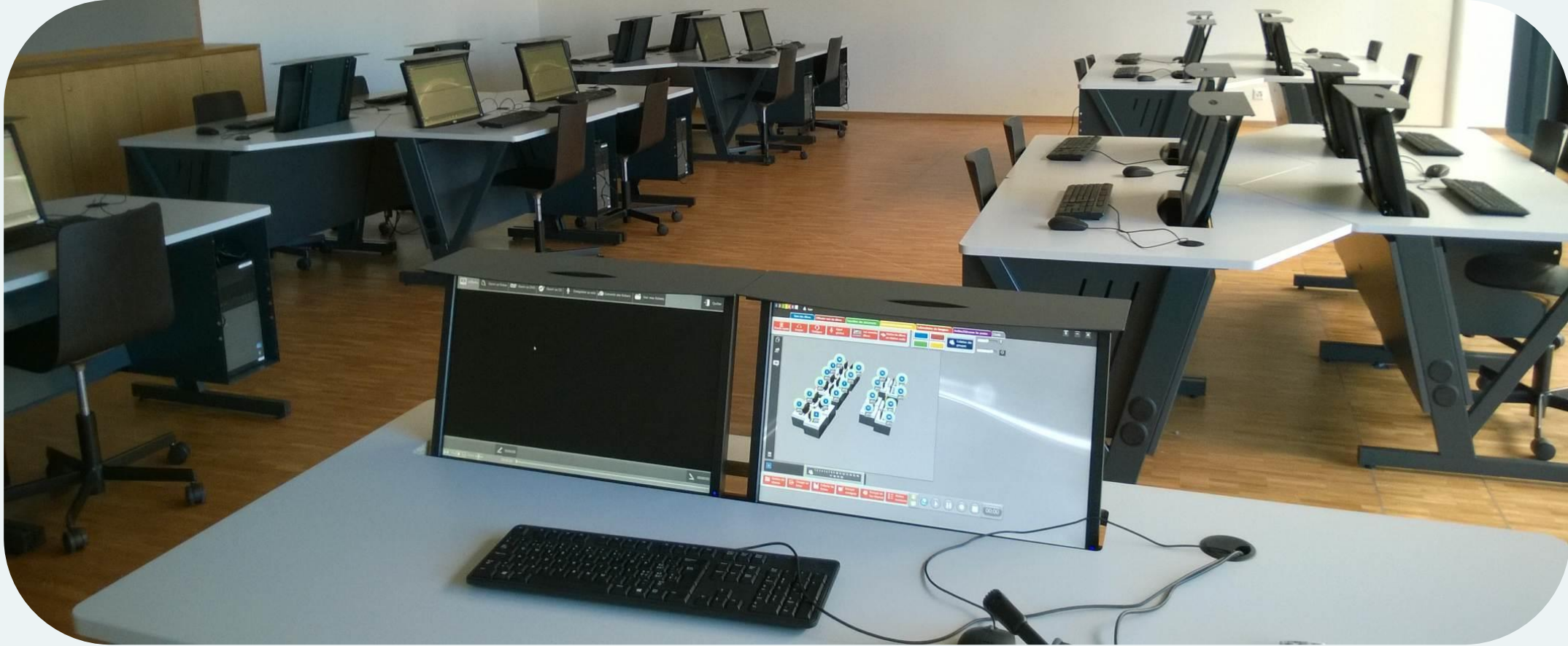
- ✓ Launched in 2015
- ✓ Teacher: 1 CPU – Students: 1 CPU each (Up to 13 CPU in total)
- ✓ Class management software: “IxiLab”
- ✓ Headsets with mic

Main functionalities:

- ✓ Computer files sharing to/from students (Text, video, audio)
- ✓ Live screens monitoring from teacher’s CPU
- ✓ Remote control of students’ screens
- ✓ Creation of groups
- ✓ Live conversation and teacher/ student recording



What it looks like:



Constraints:

- ✓ Defence network: bandwidth not fit for software's needs
- ✓ Defence hardware: outdated CPU to run the software
- ✓ Software regulation by defence IT organisations



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- ✓ Slow computers: organisational constraints (the teacher should be in class way beforehand)
- ✓ Time-consuming processes to get the (only allowed) software and its annual updates



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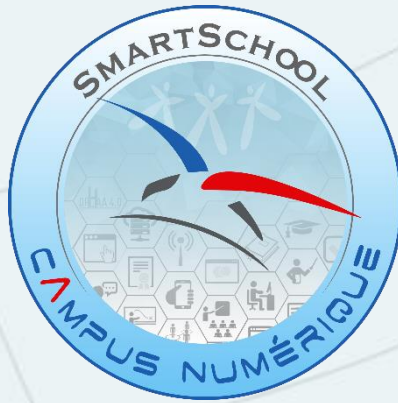
CONCLUSION:

- ✓ Labs are seen as a burden rather than a helping teaching tool
- ✓ Computer labs are not used by teachers



PART III: The SmartSchool Project

- 1- SmartSchool Services Portal
- 2- Functional Components

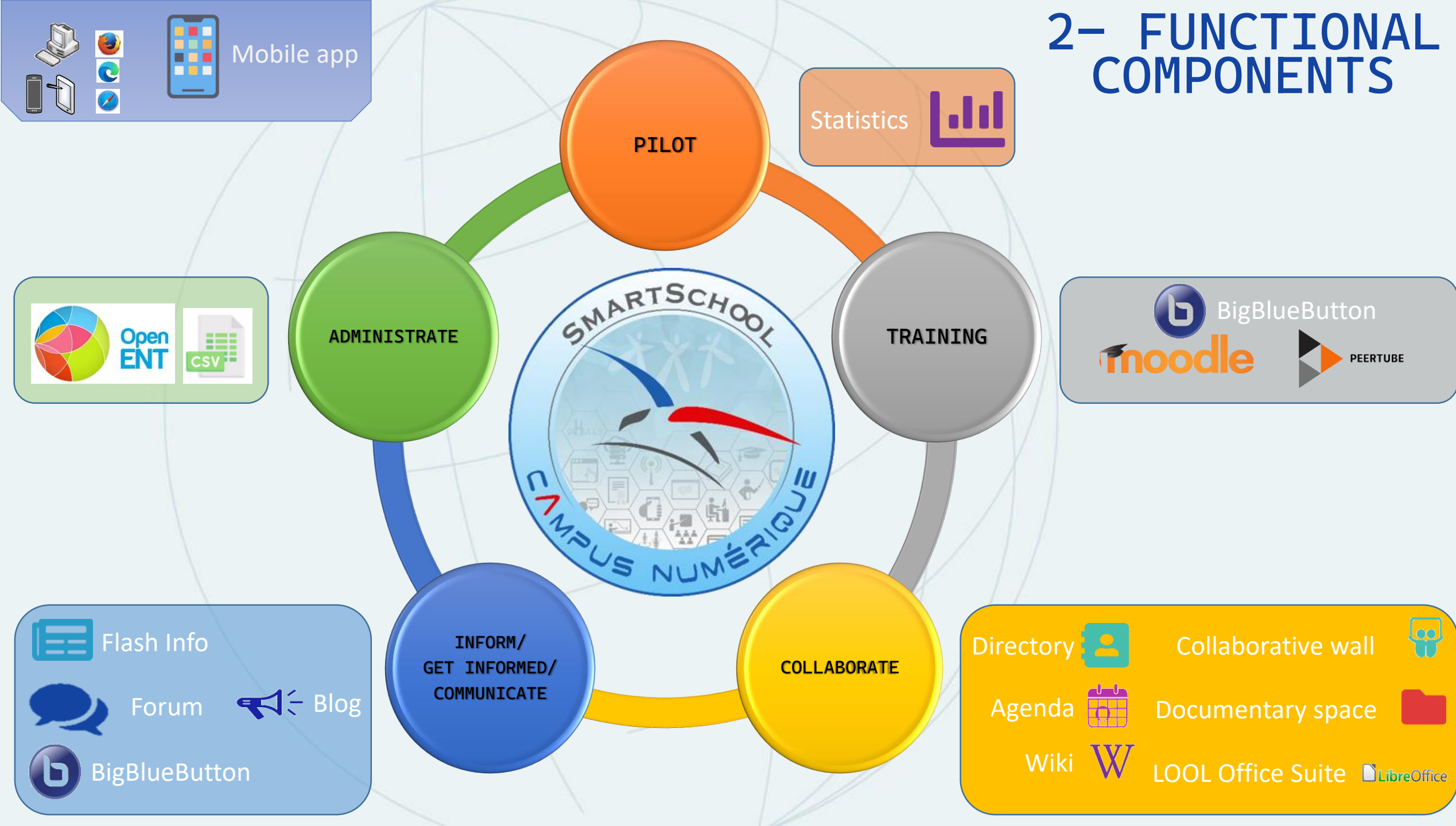


1- SMARTSCHOOL SERVICES PORTAL

- ✓ Internet access only / individual authentication (login and password)
- ✓ Up to 30 military training centers (the Specialized Aeronautical Language Center (CLAS) is one of them)
- ✓ About 15,000 users
 - military and civilian personnel
 - students of age and minors
 - parents of students
 - foreign trainees (in progress)



2- FUNCTIONAL COMPONENTS



PART IV: LC / SMARTSCHOOL PROJECT

Initial goal:

- ✓ 1 internet CPU for the teacher
- ✓ Full SmartSchool access for teachers (with associated pedagogical tools)
- ✓ 1 internet CPU for each trainee in the classroom to access dedicated Moodle content and share teaching material with the teacher



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HOWEVER:

- ✓ Many services asking for a Smartchool access → prioritization necessary
- ✓ IT office manning
- ✓ Money allocation
- ✓ Major infrastructure works needed (wiring...)



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Alternative solution:

- ✓ Internet computer and SmartSchool tools available for teachers only
- ✓ No computers for trainees



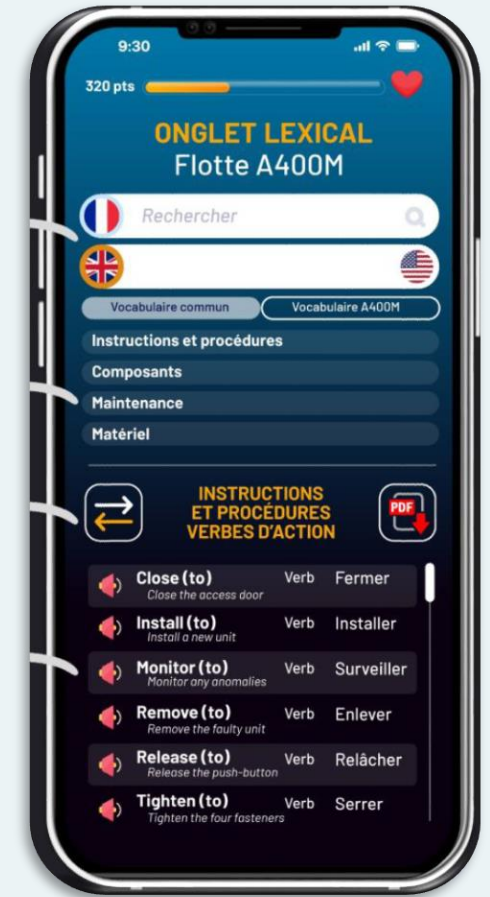
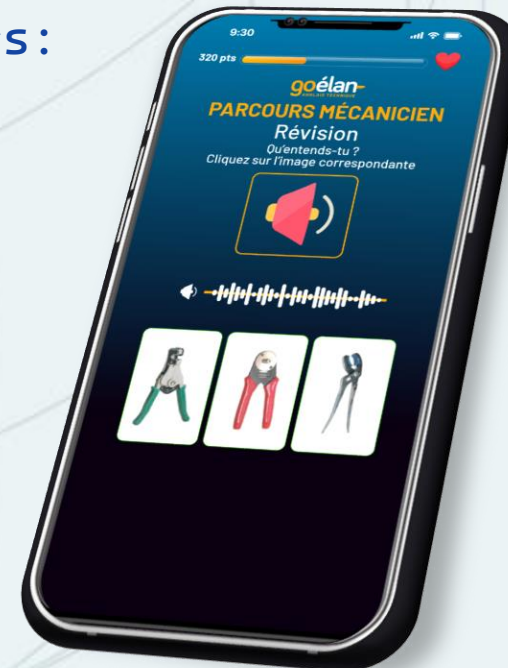
PART V: ESP – Aircraft Mechanics

- ✓ Ground engineers facing English documentation
- ✓ Need for a digital training course & easy-to-access helper
- ✓ Accessible via smartphones or tablet

➔ New self-teaching tool for aircraft mechanics:

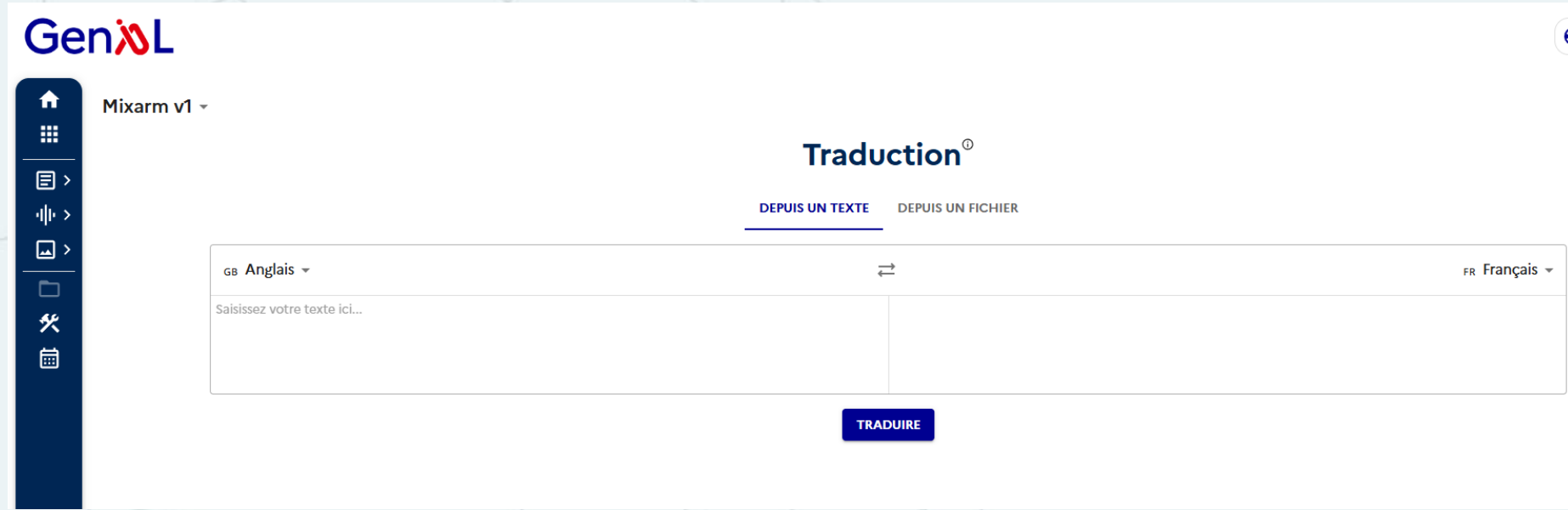
3 parts integrated in SmartSchool:

- Lexicon accessible while working
- Professional training course
- Preparation for overseas deployments



PART VI: AI TOOLS

- ✓ Translation from a text or a file



- ✓ Transcription from a file or mic recording



CONCLUSION:

✓ WILL and NEED for AI to be part of military language training

BUT

➔ AI in English teaching is still a long way off.

BON APPETIT !

