

Press Release

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## CNES and CNRS renew their exceptional partnership

CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall and Antoine Petit, Chairman & CEO of CNRS, the French national scientific research centre, have renewed the framework scientific cooperation agreement between their two organizations for a further five years, extending the accord signed on 6 April 1976 under which they are committed to combining their research efforts in the fields of Earth's environment and the Universe.

On the basis of their expertise in scientific and technological research and conscious of the need to optimize public investment to increase the efficiency of space research, CNES and CNRS are reaffirming their desire to step up their cooperation and use their resources to best effect in their respective spheres of activity.

The scope of their cooperation covers the study and exploration of the universe, the study of Earth and its environment, life sciences in space, chemical sciences (particularly new fuels), materials sciences (especially in microgravity), information and communication science and technologies, engineering sciences and notably research and technology activities in the field of launchers and orbital systems, and human and social sciences.

The two organizations have already collaborated on numerous space research programmes, which have proved most fruitful for both. The SEIS seismometer operating on the surface of Mars for the French-U.S InSight mission and the first samples collected from asteroid Ryugu by the Japanese Hayabusa2 probe, for which France is working on sample analysis processes, are two recent successes illustrating the great value of this partnership. The IASI instruments have also contributed significantly to major advances in atmospheric research.

These joint scientific projects are aligned with the priorities of the French scientific community, notably those set out at CNES's Science Survey Seminar, the next edition of which will be held in Le Havre on 8 to 10 October. CNRS provides scientific support for projects and conducts science operations, and in certain cases supplies instruments. CNES may provide project oversight or act as prime contractor. Joint teams from the two organizations work together in a true spirit of partnership on innovative activities and major scientific challenges.

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