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CNES at DLR Industrial Day 'The Future of European Space Propulsion'

Tuesday 20 April, CNES was at the Industrial Day organized by DLR (Deutsches Zentrum für Luft und Raumfahrt), the German space agency, at its Lampoldshausen field centre. Every year, this event brings together in Germany the main players in European space propulsion.

Several leading European space officials were present to speak at the 2015 edition of DLR's Industrial Day dedicated to space propulsion. This year's event took on extra importance as the first since the meeting of the ESA Ministerial Council last December in Luxembourg, where key decisions were reached on the future of Ariane 6.

CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall stepped up to the podium after Johann-Dietrich Wörner, Chairman of DLR's Executive Board. In his speech, he underlined that space is in the midst of a paradigm shift, with the appearance of new players from the Internet sphere and emerging nations, and that—as decided in Luxembourg—Europe must build its response to this game-changing evolution on a three-tier, concurrent effort to improve Ariane 5's competitiveness, expedite development of Ariane 6 and Vega-C, and devise cheaper and potentially reusable engines. Jean-Yves Le Gall then recalled that technology breakthroughs take time and that Europe must engage a technological and conceptual effort to keep pace with its competitors in space. Lastly, he pointed to the fact that the new players in launch services are benefiting from demonstrators developed by NASA in the 1990s, confirming the value of conceptual research programmes.

After his speech, Jean-Yves Le Gall commented: "First of all, I would like to thank you for inviting me to speak here again today. This year's Industrial Day is all the more significant, coming as it does after the ESA Ministerial Conference in Luxembourg that charted the development roadmap for Ariane 6 and Vega-C. We must craft Europe's response to competition from the U.S. private sector together, as the work we are doing now will condition Europe's future successes."

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