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NASA Deputy Administrator Dava Newman visits CNES Head Office

Dava Newman, the new Deputy Administrator of the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), met on Tuesday 8 September with CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall at CNES's Head Office in Paris. This was their first meeting since Dr Newman's nomination by President Obama in October 2014 and her confirmation by the U.S. Senate in May, offering the opportunity to review the main areas of cooperation where CNES and NASA are working together.

France and the United States are today reaping the benefits of over 50 years of successful collaboration in science and technology, especially in the space sector. The first visit to CNES of Dava Newman, NASA's new Deputy Administrator, gave the opportunity to review the status of French-U.S. space cooperation ahead of the series of Mars exploration missions that will be on the agenda in 2016.

Dava Newman is a scientist with a doctorate in aerospace biomedical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Her research work includes development of a new, lighter and more agile spacesuit known as the Bio-Suit, dynamics and control of astronaut motion and conception of countermeasures to mitigate the impacts of microgravity on the human body. In addition to her tasks working alongside NASA Administrator Charles Bolden and her various roles representing the agency, one of Dava Newman's key focuses will be science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) education. She was previously Professor of Astronautics at MIT and has published more than 250 papers in journals and refereed conferences.

After the meeting, Jean-Yves Le Gall commented: "I would like to warmly thank Dava and her team for coming to CNES and to congratulate her on her nomination to this key post. The year ahead will be marked by close French-U.S. cooperation as we work with our historic partners at NASA on the human and engineering challenges involved in the missions that were are readying to launch. We talked about that today with Dava Newman, whose career and contributions to science are to be highly commended."

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