

Paris, 12 October 2015
PR186 - 2015

CNES in Jerusalem for the 66th IAC

A delegation of CNES scientists, engineers and officials, led by the agency's President Jean-Yves Le Gall, is at this week's 66th International Astronautical Congress (IAC), the annual event for the world space community, being organized this year in Jerusalem by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) from Monday 12 to Friday 16 October.

CNES is at the 66th IAC, a key event in the space calendar that it attends every year. From Monday 12 to Friday 16 October, this year's event is bringing together more than 2,000 participant scientists, academics, space agency officials and industry representatives from the world space community in Jerusalem. The opening ceremony of IAC and its exhibition on Monday 12 October were attended by a large panel of Israeli and international dignitaries, including MPs from GPE, the French parliamentary space group.

In the middle of the exhibition area, CNES's booth symbolizes France's presence at IAC, with a giant print of Jerusalem and its outskirts taken by French Earth-observation satellites, mock-ups of Ariane 5, Pleiades and Jason-3, and a film retracing French-Israeli space cooperation. There is also a fresco illustrating CNES's five areas of activity : Ariane, Sciences, Observation, Telecommunications and Defence.

The focal point of the exhibition is the French-Israeli VEN μ S mission (Vegetation and Environment monitoring on a New Micro-Satellite). VEN μ S aims to observe changes in vegetation at high spatial resolution every two days and pave the way for future Copernicus services, as well as to flight-qualify the Israeli Hall Effect Thruster (IHET). VEN μ S is set to be orbited in the coming months on a Vega launcher from the Guiana Space Centre.

These presentations will give CNES and its historic partner the Israel Space Agency (ISA) the opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of French-Israeli space cooperation. CNES will also be showcasing a number of innovations spawned by its research work to engage in high-level contacts likely to lead to new cooperation projects.

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