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France-Brazil space cooperation CNES and AEB meet Preparation of Climate strand for IAC 2016 in Guadalajara

Wednesday 3 August in Brasilia, CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall met his counterpart José Raimundo Braga Coelho, President of the Brazilian space agency AEB (Agencia Espacial Brasileira), to review the status of space cooperation between France and Brazil and discuss efforts to curb climate change ahead of IAC 2016 in Guadalajara.

Space cooperation between France and Brazil is underpinned by an Intergovernmental Agreement on the study and peaceful uses of outer space. In 2008, CNES and AEB established a framework programme and signed three specific agreements extending their cooperation to a range of fields including agriculture, efforts to curb climate change, natural disaster mitigation, environmental preservation and natural resource management, telecommunications and satellite navigation.

More specifically, these three agreements covered the SGDC telecommunications satellite for which CNES provided Brazil with assistance and technical expertise, the PMM satellite bus project for which CNES trained Brazilian engineers at the Toulouse Space Centre, and a project for a satellite to study the water cycle for both nations' scientific communities.

In 2013, CNES backed the proposal submitted by French industry to its Brazilian counterpart to supply the SGDC telecommunications satellite. This proposal was subsequently selected and the contract covering acquisition of the satellite and its launch by Ariane 5 was signed the same year during French President François Hollande's state visit to Brazil. In 2014, French contractors, again with support from CNES, submitted bids invited by Visiona for a constellation of data-collection satellites, and in 2015, AEB's President visited CNES, where he was given a presentation of the Argos programme and efforts being pursued by CNES to combat climate change.

After the meeting, Jean-Yves Le Gall commented: "It is always a pleasure to meet our Brazilian counterparts, but this meeting was especially important, coming as it did just weeks ahead of IAC 2016 in Guadalajara and at a time when our discussions with Brazil on efforts to curb climate change are poised to step up a gear. These topics will of course be on the agenda of the next World Water Forum in Brasilia in 2018 and satellite data are set to prove vital in all of these areas."

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