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CNES organizes first Space & Digital conference

On the morning of Monday 17 October, CNES organized at its Head Office in Paris the first Space & Digital conference, chaired by Thierry Mandon, Secretary of State for Higher Education and Research, and attended by some 100 representatives from the space and digital technology industries.

Space and digital are two transformative technologies that have always been closely tied. Today, the spectacular and simultaneous growth in data production, processing and distribution capacity, new digital applications, and services delivered by space infrastructures are leading us to rethink how these two spheres mesh with one another.

The half-day conference at CNES's Head Office follows the recommendation formulated in June at the fifth meeting of the CoSpace government-industry space coordination committee to bring stakeholders from the space and digital industries together to share their perspectives on the key challenges that lie ahead for the space industry. The goal of this gathering is to provide a forum for stakeholders from the space industry and the digital economy to meet and look at the interrelations between the two communities in the light of the transformations they are now experiencing and their attendant social and economic impacts.

There were two roundtable discussions, the first looking at space applications and uptake of digital technologies in business and wider society, and the second covering the interconnections between space infrastructure operators and the digital industry, for example between satellites and data distribution platforms. Among the participants will be representatives from Airbus Defence and Space, ATOS, AXA, Bourbon, Cap Gemini, CESBIO, CLS, Dassault Systemes, Eutelsat, I-SEA, LIMAGRAIN, Orange, OVH, SNCF, Thales Alenia Space and QWANT.

On this occasion, Thierry Mandon, Secretary of State for Higher Education and Research, commented: "I am delighted that CNES hosted this first Space & Digital conference. The space arena is now seeing major shifts and the advent of digital technologies is set to bring lasting changes to our lives. This gathering comes at just the right time to bring these two worlds closer together."

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