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CNES-Eumetsat cooperation

Signature of agreement extending the image-quality system of the 3MI instrument on MetOp-SG satellites

CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall and Eumetsat Director General Alain Ratier have signed a cooperation agreement to extend the image-quality system of the 3MI instrument (Multi-viewing, Multi-channel, Multi-polarization Imager) that will fly from 2021 on the European MetOp-SG A weather satellite of the Eumetsat Polar System-Second Generation (EPS-SG).

The chief mission of the 3MI instrument supplied by the European Space Agency (ESA) is to characterize aerosols for climatology and atmospheric chemistry science, focusing especially on air quality and numerical weather prediction models. 3MI is designed to assure operational data continuity in the footsteps of the POLDER/PARASOL, VEGETATION, SPOT and Pleiades missions, through which CNES has acquired unique expertise in image quality and production found nowhere else in Europe.

This latest agreement between CNES and Eumetsat encompasses the image-quality system and support for stray light and ground characterization aspects of the instrument's development. It will contribute to assuring continuity of service for the Eumetsat Polar System (EPS) beyond 2020 with the second-generation EPS-SG that is set to further enhance weather forecasting, atmospheric chemistry and climate monitoring services, as well as delivering operational oceanography and hydrology data.

After the signature, Jean-Yves Le Gall commented: "CNES is especially proud to have signed this new agreement with Eumetsat that recognizes our expertise in producing high-quality satellite imagery. The synergies we have forged with Eumetsat are helping to establish a global climate monitoring system in space that will serve to track implementation of the Paris Agreement signed at the COP21. It also sends a strong signal for the COP22 starting today in Marrakesh."

Contacts

Pascale Bresson
Julien Watelet

Tel. +33 (0)1 44 76 75 39
Tel. +33 (0)1 44 76 78 37

pascale.bresson@cnes.fr
julien.watelet@cnes.fr

presse.cnes.fr