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## CNES at 'Prospects for Space in 2017' conference organized by Euroconsult and GIFAS

The 2017 edition of the yearly 'Prospects for Space' conference organized by Euroconsult and GIFAS, the French aerospace industries association, brought together participants from the French and European space community. At the opening of the conference, CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall looked back at the space highlights of 2016 and charted the course for France's space programme in the year ahead.

The yearly 'Prospects for Space' conference, organized by Euroconsult, an independent consulting and analyst firm specializing in high-tech and with recognized expertise in space and satellite applications, in partnership with the French aerospace industries association GIFAS<sup>1</sup>, gave participants the opportunity to review the major events, key milestones and successes of the past year in space and to look ahead to what lies in store for the sector in 2017 and beyond. This year's event brought together for its seventh edition more than 200 top officials and executives from public institutions and private firms across the French and European space sector.

In his speech Jean-Yves Le Gall underlined the numerous successes achieved in 2016, especially Thomas Pesquet's ongoing mission on the International Space Station and the start of initial Galileo services. But the focus of his attention was the current international context driven by a new world space order and new entrants pursuing the two main challenges of connecting and observing the planet.

Aside from ESA's programmatic and political achievements after the successful Ministerial Conference last December in Lucerne, CNES's President lauded the European Commission's efforts in crafting a Space Strategy for Europe and emphasized the key role of CNES, which with its budget up 10% this year remains more than ever the driver of Europe's space programme. He concluded by stressing that CNES must keep moving and innovating to embrace the digital transformation, continue to work in partnership with the world's space players and engage new climate-monitoring efforts.

1 Groupement des Industries Françaises Aéronautiques et Spatiales

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### Contacts

Pascale Bresson  
Fabienne Lissak  
Julien Watelet

Tel. +33 (0)1 44 76 75 39  
Tel. +33 (0)1 44 76 78 74  
Tel. +33 (0)1 44 76 78 37

[pascale.bresson@cnes.fr](mailto:pascale.bresson@cnes.fr)  
[fabienne.lissak@cnes.fr](mailto:fabienne.lissak@cnes.fr)  
[julien.watelet@cnes.fr](mailto:julien.watelet@cnes.fr)

**[presse.cnes.fr](http://presse.cnes.fr)**