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33rd Space Symposium in Colorado Springs **15 space agency heads come together** **to 'invent the future of space'**

CNES is at the 33rd Space Symposium being held Monday 3 to Thursday 6 April in Colorado Springs, United States. Founded in 1984, the symposium is a key event for the international space community and its principal institutional, military and commercial players. More than 10,000 attendees are at this year's event.

The Space Symposium brings together all the big names in space for presentations and expert debates, offering a glimpse of the latest technological developments in the sector and the hottest topics in the industry. With the International Astronautical Congress (IAC), it is a must-attend yearly event in the international space calendar.

Tuesday 4 April, a panel discussion organized by the Space Foundation brought together 15 space agency leaders from around the world for a debate on current trends in the space sector. The agency heads highlighted the role of innovation, which calls for closer cooperation in international relations, dual-use programmes and public-private partnership—three key domains for space. In this context, it is through its universally renowned technical and programmatic expertise that CNES is priming itself to 'invent the future of space'.

CNES also gave a presentation on "Innovation & Inspiration - A Key Asset for France in the Partnership with the United States in Civilian and Military Space", during which Jean-Yves Le Gall pointed to the huge global impact of the Rosetta-Philae mission, the first results from Microscope, Thomas Pesquet's mission aboard the ISS, the start of Galileo initial services and the many actions being pursued in support of climate monitoring through the MicroCarb, MERLIN and SWOT programmes.

He underlined that CNES plays a key role driving Europe's space programme, with a total budget for 2017 up 10%. He also hailed current and future programmes being pursued jointly by France and the United States, notably Curiosity, MAVEN, InSight, Mars 2020, Jason 1, 2 and 3 and SWOT, as well as the recent agreements on space surveillance and tracking. He concluded with the hope that the two nations will continue to step up their cooperation in space.

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