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CNES to organize SpaceOps 2018 in Marseille from 28 May to 1 June 2018

CNES invited this week to Marseille the committee in charge of planning the 15th SpaceOps International Conference on Space Operations to be held at the Palais du Pharo from 28 May to 1 June 2018.

Formed in 1990, SpaceOps is an association of the world's space agencies bringing together all of the key players in space. Today it has nearly 40 members and institutional, academic and industry partners from all over the world, and is constantly welcoming new entrants into its fold, the latest to join being the United Kingdom Space Agency (UKSA) just this week.

The biennial SpaceOps conference is the forum of choice showcasing the most innovative space technologies, methods and tools. Organized by CNES in partnership with the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), the next SpaceOps conference will be held from 28 May to 1 June 2018 at the Palais du Pharo in Marseille on the theme '**Inspiring Humankind's Future**'.

CNES chaired the meeting this week in Marseille of the SpaceOps committee tasked with planning this event. Over three days, from 16 to 18 May, this meeting was attended by some 60 participants from all horizons, a record number that attests to the conference's growing influence and importance.

On this occasion, CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall commented: "I am especially glad and moved to see this first meeting taking place here in Marseille, my beautiful native city. I would like to hail SpaceOps decision to develop a dedicated programme for the younger space generation, which signals a commendable readiness to open it up to academia and science laboratories. I invite your committee to encourage closer involvement of industry partners in your association, while retaining the principle of SpaceOps' independence from commercial considerations. It is a great honour for France's space community to be hosting the next SpaceOps in 2018. I am sure it will be a huge success and a wonderful opportunity for France to reaffirm its attachment to Europe and an outward-looking vision of the world."

More information at www.spaceops.org and www.spaceops2018.org

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