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CNES supporting legal research to “invent the future of space”

Thursday 22 June at the 52nd International Paris Air Show at Le Bourget, CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall and Sylvie Retailleau, Vice Chancellor of Paris-Sud University, signalled a new phase in their collaboration with the signature of an agreement to form a scientific consortium combining their competencies in legal research to “invent the future of space”.

CNES and Paris-Sud University have decided to step up their cooperation in order to help establish solid legal instruments suited to developing the most innovative space activities. This approach is aimed notably at supporting burgeoning new applications and the emergence of future reusable, repairable and serviceable systems for space exploration, driven by new players coming from the digital sphere.

The new consortium will provide a structure for discussion and debate at national and international level through working groups and supervision of theses and research in space law and policy, symposia and gatherings of experts, academia and professionals. It is the culmination of a partnership engaged in 1999 when laying the groundwork for the French Space Operations Act (FSOA) and ties more broadly into the partnership approach with academia to which the Sirius Chair at Toulouse 1 Capitole University and the Toulouse Business School are already contributing.

On this occasion, Sylvie Retailleau and Jean-Yves Le Gall lauded the closer cooperation that researchers at the Institute of Space and Telecommunications Law (IDEST) and experts at CNES's Legal Sub-Directorate have built up together.

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