

Press Release

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CNES Science Programmes Committee meets

CNES's Science Programmes Committee (CPS) met today at the agency's Head Office in Paris. The CPS advises the CNES Board of Directors on matters relating to space science research and helps it to shape the agency's science priorities.

CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall kicked off the meeting with a recap of the partnership agreements signed by CNES in recent months. He underlined the agency's concrete contribution to the One Planet Summit organized late last year in Paris at the initiative of President Emmanuel Macron, where it worked to create the Space Climate Observatory (SCO) proposed by the world's leading space agencies, and more recently the second edition of the International Space Forum (ISF) - The African Chapter organized by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) on the theme of space sciences and education serving sustainable development in Africa. He also emphasized the remarkable results accomplished by the Microscope mission.

He then turned to CNES's 'spirit of space' mantra for 2018, which reflects the agency's focus on space as the new horizon for areas of the economy like the digital and healthcare sectors. The result is that the worlds of space and digital technologies are coming increasingly closer together, through CNES's collaboration with the Cap Digital competitiveness cluster and its presence at Station F. Lastly, he hailed Thomas Hasinger's appointment as ESA Director of Science and the election of four members of the space science community, among them the CPS's Eric Calais, to the French science academy.

CPS Chair Jean-Loup Puget and his colleagues then discussed the challenges ahead for the agency, notably preparations for two key milestones in 2019, the CNES science survey seminar and the ESA Ministerial Council meeting.

Other items on the agenda at this CPS meeting included the large-scale study conducted with support from CNES's experts by the French community on the Copernicus Long-Term Scenario and a review of exoplanet research missions (M4/ARIEL, PLATO and CHEOPS).

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