

Press Release

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Space cooperation between France and South Korea CNES and KARI organize second France-Korea Space Forum in Paris

In the presence of Frédérique Vidal, Minister for Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Choi Jong-Moon, South Korea's Ambassador to France, Fabien Pénone, France's Ambassador to South Korea, Senator Jean-Marie Bockel, Chair of the French parliamentary space group, and Member of Parliament Joachim Son-Forget, Chair of the France-Korea friendship group at the French National Assembly, CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall and Lim Cheol-Ho, President of the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI), inaugurated the second France-Korea Space Forum in Paris on Tuesday 3 April. Numerous industry representatives from the French and Korean space sectors were also in attendance.

Today's event marks a continuation of the dialogue initiated at the first France-Korea Space Forum, held in Seoul on 12 December 2016. In his address, Jean-Yves Le Gall stated that the already significant contribution of France's space industry to the success of South Korea's space programme must be stepped up, along with the institutional ties established under the framework of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in 2015.

The longstanding and rich industrial collaboration between the two nations has seen France regularly contribute to the development of Korean satellites and it supplies systems, scientific instruments and launch services for its future platforms. CNES helped to conceive and manage KARI's launch complexes in the early 2000s. The two agency partners have undertaken a series of new actions since 2015, notably to develop the ground segment for Korea's new KSLV2 launcher and in radionavigation to support its KASS satellite-based navigation system.

French and Korean space research organizations also maintain regular ties in the field of science, focusing on Earth remote sensing and oceanography. Since the COP21 conference, the crucial role that satellites now have to play in tackling climate change is increasingly apparent. Cooperation between the two space agencies in this domain is vital and a priority for both nations. In this regard, French-Korean collaboration in this area, notably South Korea's involvement with the Space Climate Observatory (SCO), would greatly benefit efforts to mitigate climate change.

This second France-Korea Space Forum will be followed by visits by the Korean delegation to the Toulouse Space Centre and various industry partners. The forum is opening up new horizons for France and South Korea's partnership in space.

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