

Press Release

28 May 2018

PR073-2018

SpaceOps 2018 opens in Marseille “Inspiring Humankind’s Future”

SpaceOps 2018, the 15th international conference on space operations, is being held from Monday 28 May to Friday 1 June at the Palais du Pharo in Marseille. Jean-Claude Gaudin, Mayor of Marseille, CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall and Jean-Luc Beuzit, Director of the LAM astrophysics laboratory in Marseille, were at the opening ceremony of this year’s event, for which the theme is “Inspiring Humankind’s Future”.

SpaceOps is a global association formed in 1990 to federate the world’s main space operators. It today has almost 40 members and partners from institutions, academia and industry all over the world and it is regularly welcoming new members into its fold. The biennial SpaceOps conference is the leading event of its kind dedicated to the most innovative technologies, methods and tools in the space operations sector. This year’s event organized by CNES with support from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) is expected to attract a record 850 attendees.

During his address, Jean-Yves Le Gall outlined CNES’s commitments and collective accomplishments that are a perfect illustration of the conference’s theme of “Inspiring Humankind’s Future”, focusing on the examples of climate, exploration and cooperation.

Climate change is the most burning issue facing us if we are to preserve the balances and prosperity of our societies, and space is giving us new insights into climate mechanisms. To this end, CNES is constantly working with scientists, space agencies and international and intergovernmental organizations to craft innovative missions designed to learn more about our changing climate. Several such missions are currently being developed, like CFOSat, MicroCarb, MERLIN and SWOT, and the Space Climate Observatory (SCO) designed to pool and standardize climate data acquired from space and make them more readily available to the global scientific community. Exploration is another major challenge facing space as component miniaturization, the digital revolution and the declining cost of launches and satellites are today opening new horizons. To pursue this fantastic adventure, stakeholders will need to pool their efforts, practices and expertise. Lastly, international cooperation is the essential condition for the space sector’s success, which is why CNES has made it the focus of its attention and is working with international partners on all continents.

On the sidelines of the event, Jean-Yves Le Gall commented: “I am delighted to see this 15th edition of SpaceOps being held in my beautiful native city of Marseille. These next five days of passionate and fruitful debate will show that space is truly inspiring humankind’s future. Year after year, we are succeeding in pushing the envelope further and accomplishing ever more impressive feats.”

CONTACTS

Pascale Bresson Press Officer
Raphaël Sart Press Officer

Tel. +33 (0)1 44 76 75 39
Tel. +33 (0)1 44 76 74 51

pascale.bresson@cnes.fr
raphael.sart@cnes.fr

presse.cnes.fr