



Press Release

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France-Russia space cooperation CNES and Roscosmos sign framework space science agreement

Thursday 15 June, CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall met Dmitry Rogozin, Director General of Roscosmos, in Moscow for a status check on the development of space cooperation between France and Russia, and to sign a framework cooperation agreement on space science.

This agreement, which draws its heritage from the first intergovernmental space cooperation agreement signed by President Charles de Gaulle in 1966, aims to promote new space projects for peaceful purposes and to facilitate implementing arrangements in areas such as climate monitoring from space, space biology, solar research, planetology and the study of the universe. The agreement will allow France to pursue and consolidate its cooperation with Russia in space science.

On this occasion, Jean-Yves Le Gall congratulated Dmitry Rogozin on his appointment to head Roscosmos. The two agency heads then discussed the agreement that is an important foundation for new areas of cooperation in space science and life science, and will form the cornerstone of French-Russian space cooperation in the years ahead. They also discussed current and future projects: the launch this October of ESA's BepiColombo mission, to which CNES and Roscosmos are contributing with the Phebus ultraviolet spectrometer to study Mercury's exosphere, and the launch in 2019 of the Russian Bion-M N°2 mission and its MTB-2 instrument (Mouse Telemetry for Bion-M2) developed by CNES. Closer relations between the two agencies in the area of environmental research and efforts to curb climate change were also extensively addressed, the priority being the desire to secure Roscosmos's contribution to setting up the Space Climate Observatory (SCO) decided at the One Planet Summit in December last year.

After the meeting, Jean-Yves Le Gall commented: "I had a most constructive meeting with Dmitry Rogozin today at which we discussed the many areas in which France and Russia are working together in space. My counterpart was particularly attentive to new prospects for cooperation between our two nations and I am especially glad that he was very much in favour of the project to combine our strengths and expertise in tackling climate change, one of the biggest challenges facing us in the decade ahead."

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