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Press Release

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Science and space outreach CNES and Universcience strengthen partnership ties

Wednesday 27 June in Paris, CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall and Bruno Maquart, President of Universcience, signed a new partnership agreement to step up cooperation between their two organizations with a view to encouraging science and technology outreach and disseminating knowledge to a wide audience, notably younger generations.

The agreement sets out the principles and terms for long-term cooperation on joint actions and projects related to space, space technologies and telecommunications. It provides notably for CNES to take on an active role in the new 'Un ingénieur, un projet' [An engineer, a project] initiative led and created by Universcience in 2017, for which the agency will supply its scientific and technical expertise through its engineers working with schools.

The agreement also provides for the two organizations to work together on exhibitions and major events at the Palais de la découverte or the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie in Paris, as they have in the past, for example with the hugely successful live broadcasts for the Rosetta and Proxima missions. For the landing of the InSight mission on Mars, a live broadcast will be carried from the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie on Monday 26 November, an exceptional event at which the audience will be invited to 'take the pulse of the red planet' and see the kinds of technological challenges that this mission has had to meet.

After today's signature, Bruno Maquart commented: "Bringing citizens closer to science and making scientific advances accessible to all is one of the main ambitions of Universcience. These are goals and values that we have shared with CNES for many years. Today, we are pleased to have signed this new agreement consolidating our collaboration that will enable us to conceive new events and exhibitions and give them the visibility they deserve. Our teams are already looking forward to working on some great projects ahead."

Jean-Yves Le Gall added: "I am delighted to have signed this new agreement and to see CNES's continuing commitment as a science and technology educator for younger generations. Our goal is to get them interested in space and to inspire future vocations. At the end of this year, we will be at the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie for the landing of InSight on Mars to experience this new adventure live."

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