

Press release

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France and Azerbaijan cooperate in space Framework agreement between CNES and Azercosmos

As part of the official visit by the President of Azerbaijan to France, CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall and Rashad Nabiyev, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Azercosmos, signed a framework agreement to step up cooperation between the two countries in space, especially in Earth observation. The agreement was signed in the presence of the French President.

In 2017, Azercosmos was placed directly under the authority of the President of Azerbaijan with a mandate to coordinate the country's bilateral and multilateral cooperation for the peaceful uses of space. Azerbaijan is giving fresh impetus to its space programme, and France is ready to support the country as it develops this new activity. In line with CNES's policy of supporting its industry partners, the agreement further strengthens this commitment to cooperation.

In the fight against climate change, Jean-Yves Le Gall suggested to Rashad Nabiyev that the two agencies work together on the Space Climate Observatory, an international initiative led by France with the goal of using space assets to study climate change and its impacts on the planet and populations at global to local scales. A demonstration of the first application scenarios of the Space Climate Observatory was held at the recent Toulouse Space Show.

After the ceremony, Jean-Yves Le Gall commented: *"I'm delighted at the signing of this framework agreement, which opens up a whole range of possibilities for our two countries to cooperate on the peaceful uses of space. During my last visit to Azerbaijan for the final of the ActInSpace contest, I realized the importance this country attaches to developing its space activities."*

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