

Press Release

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CNES at the International Space University Master of Space Studies graduation ceremony

CNES Chief Operating Officer Lionel Suchet today spoke at the ceremony for graduates of the Master of Space Studies 2018 (MSS18) and to welcome the new intake of students for MSS19 at the International Space University (ISU) in Strasbourg, in the presence of Pascale Ehrenfreund, Chair of the Executive Board of the German space agency DLR and Vice-Chancellor of ISU, and Catherine Trautmann, former minister and Vice-President of Eurometropole. On this occasion, he stressed CNES's vital and innovative contribution to Europe, the world's number two space power, and its close involvement in ISU's development.

During his address to the new and future graduates, Lionel Suchet detailed the significant contributions that space technologies are making to serve the needs of institutional users and citizens across a range of fields including health, security, agriculture, fisheries, land planning and weather forecasting. He underlined the importance of innovation driving current trends in space to keep Europe competitive in response to the challenges being laid down by new players in the space sector. He notably emphasized that innovation is a key part of CNES's genetic make-up, as reflected in its organization geared towards enhancing performance while continuing to work closely with DLR and other international partners in pursuit of climate actions.

CNES's Chief Operating Officer also pointed to the agency's key role supporting ISU's development since its inception and through the support agreement between them for the 2017-2019 period. After warmly commending Walter Peeters, ISU's outgoing President, for his efforts and in particular for his active role building new training programmes and developing international partnerships, Lionel Suchet thanked incoming ISU President Juan de Dalmau, former Director of Operations at the Guiana Space Centre (CSG). He also thanked ISU for naming the MSS18 year after CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall in recognition of his accomplishments as a high-level space official.

After the graduation ceremony, Lionel Suchet commented: "I am delighted to see CNES's active and continuing role working with ISU and regional authorities to help it develop and pursue its activities here in Strasbourg. Let me assure institutional and business stakeholders that they can count on CNES's support in their efforts."

ISU was founded in 1987 on the initiative of three space enthusiasts from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Its headquarters were located in Strasbourg in 1994, thanks largely to the efforts of Catherine Trautmann. CNES has a seat on ISU's Board of Directors, currently composed of 28 representatives from space agencies, manufacturers and operators chosen for their active or past involvement in the university.

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