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**Press Release**

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## **Science and space outreach Stratospheric balloons and CNES and CNRS engineers at the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie**

As part of the Sky and Space forums being held from 2 to 4 November and the 'An engineer, a project' initiative, the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie, in partnership with CNES, is putting on an exhibition and a series of conferences on the theme of stratospheric balloons, a domain where CNES is a world leader. This operation seeks to bring science balloon engineering into the public eye.

Visitors will be able to see full-scale balloons on display and talk to engineers from CNES and the national scientific research centre CNRS, giving them a glimpse of how research and engineering complement one another and the broad range of themes they cover.

Mini-conferences will also be organized during the three-day event, focusing not only on science ballooning at CNES but also on astrophysics and atmospheric science missions. A balloon inflation workshop will engage youngsters, while a virtual-reality immersion experience will give visitors a taste of what it's like on a stratospheric balloon.

**An active partnership between CNES and Universcience:** CNES is taking an active role in the 'An engineer, a project' outreach initiative created by Universcience in 2017, for which the agency is supplying scientific and technical expertise through its engineers working with schools and the wider public. This partnership is an element of the broader long-term collaboration between CNES and Universcience on joint actions and projects related to space, space technologies and telecommunications.

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