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CNES and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council partner to drive the region's economic development

Tuesday 4 December, CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall and Bernard Kleynhoff, Regional Councillor and Chair of the Economic, Industry, Innovation, New Technologies and Digital Committee, representing Renaud Muselier MEP, President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council, signed a partnership agreement to serve the region's economic development through space solutions and technologies and to combine their efforts and commitment to applying the Paris Agreement on climate. The agreement signed today identifies three main avenues for collaboration: providing space solutions and technologies to drive the region's economic development and boost its attractiveness; making the region a precursor in applying space solutions for the environment and hazard management; and promoting research, training and science-society dialogue to make it the first Smart Region in Europe.

This partnership agreement will promote uptake of space solutions and technologies by the region's firms and enable them to benefit from the technical expertise and support of its space players, public organizations and universities. The attractiveness of the region's industries will thus be increased and their profile raised in global markets. The Regional Council launched its Climate Plan to lead the way in tackling climate change in 2017, the same year that CNES put forward the concept of the Space Climate Observatory (SCO). The council and CNES will thus work together to establish precursor services designed to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

After today's signature, Jean-Yves Le Gall commented: "Space technologies and solutions are key to developing our economy and applying effective tools to tackle climate change. This partnership between CNES and the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council is a perfect illustration of how space technologies are needed to transform a territory whose ambition is to achieve economic and environmental excellence."

Renaud Muselier added: "I am delighted that we have signed this partnership with CNES. Together, we will pursue the shared goal of developing the region's space industry, which is a strategic sector underpinning our economy with more than 300 firms. Our aim is to make Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur an attractive, smart, connected and internationally renowned region, and to become the first Smart Region in Europe."

CNES CONTACTS

Pascale BressonPress OfficerTel. +33 (0)1 44 76 75 39pascale.bresson@cnes.frRaphaël SartPress OfficerTel. +33 (0)1 44 76 74 51raphael.sart@cnes.frSébastien MartignacPress OfficerTel. +33 (0)1 44 76 78 35sebastien.martignac@cnes.fr

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council CONTACT

Margaux Massonnat Press Officer Tel. +33 (0)4 91 57 51 64 mmassonnat@maregionsud.fr

presse.cnes.fr