



# Press Release

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## World Policy Conference Space industry at the 12<sup>th</sup> edition

CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall was in attendance for the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the World Policy Conference (WPC) being held in Marrakesh from 12 to 14 October, where he spoke at the plenary session on 'Technology, society and politics' moderated by Jim Hoagland, contributing editor to *The Washington Post*. Founded in 2008 by Thierry de Montbrial, the WPC is an independent organization which aims to contribute to improving all aspects of governance, with a view to promoting a world that is more open, more prosperous, fairer and more respectful of the diversity of states and nations. Its annual meeting brings together leading figures from all five continents—political and business leaders, representatives of civil society, academics and journalists—in a climate of trust and a spirit of tolerance to examine, discuss and suggest constructive solutions to the challenges facing the world today.

In his contribution to the plenary, Jean-Yves Le Gall pointed to the space industry as undoubtedly one of our youngest industries, while it embodies all the contradictions and challenges that beset humankind: a technological revolution, an industrial revolution (the fourth) and a media revolution. He then set out these three challenges:

- The first is the pace of technological change driving the space industry, for technological revolutions and apparent 'overnight successes' are in fact the result of many years of engineering effort.
- The second challenge facing the space industry is the fourth industrial revolution, which has naturally spawned NewSpace and the arrival of private players from the Internet sphere, and in response increasing globalization and the multiplication of government players with today more than 60 space agencies.
- The third challenge is the new 'post-truth' media era, which also has to contend with the tempo of development set by engineers and technological constraints: while dreams are the stuff of the conquest of space, they must not veil the truth—which is that the conquest of space takes time.

CNES's President also added that beyond these three challenges, space can offer both technological and civic solutions to tackle climate change, a field where France is leading the way with the creation of the Space Climate Observatory (SCO), an organization that will allow nations, local decision-makers and supra-national bodies to monitor the impacts of climate change in real time and develop climate-resilient policies.

Concluding his remarks, Jean-Yves Le Gall said: "On 24 December 1968, the three astronauts of the Apollo 8 crew took a breathtaking picture of Earthrise from the Moon, a picture that triggered a new ecological awakening and awareness of the fragility of our little blue dot, alone in the vastness of space. With the Space Climate Observatory, we are laying the foundations for our fifth industrial revolution. Rather than giving us lessons to be learned, space can get us thinking and above all fuel an ambition—to tackle climate change and ensure our survival."

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