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363RD SESSION OF CNES BOARD OF DIRECTORS GIVES GO-AHEAD FOR PEGASE AND POLLUX

Friday 10 July, CNES's Board of Directors convened for its 363rd session at the agency's Head Office in Paris Les Halles. At today's meeting, the Board gave the go-ahead to engage France in the PEGASE and POLLUX programmes.

The PEGASE programme aims to federate studies on spacecraft bus requirements and to lead developments of building blocks and products for the next generations of Neosat and FlexSat satellites and constellations. It intends to strengthen the position of national partners in the French equipment manufacturing ecosystem in response to their European challengers by helping telecommunications satellite prime contractors to hone their competitive edge. Developments will draw on technologies used in products like those in the aviation and automobile industries (GaN, CMOS, additive manufacturing, etc.) and will be driven by the NewSpace rationale.

The POLLUX programme aims to pull together R&D activities over the 2020-2025 period on equipment and technologies for telecommunications payloads in LEO, MEO and GEO, including for export markets. Future satellite telecommunications payloads will need to cover broadcast, Internet access, 5G integration and Internet of Things (IoT) missions for fixed and mobile users, integrate with hybrid systems combining LEO/MEO and GEO, offer increased flexibility while maximizing capacity and accommodate a wide range of platforms.

The Board also discussed the industrial and budgetary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the space sector and CNES in the light of feedback from initiatives like the Space Economy Observatory and the Connect with Space webinar. CNES has formulated proposals for a recovery plan for the space sector that would enable innovative projects leveraging the multiple applications of space to support the French economy.

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