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PRESS RELEASE

**CNES AT THE 2006 BOOK FAIR
RICH CATALOGUE, OPEN SHOWCASE**

CNES will be at the Paris Book Fair 17-22 March in partnership with the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research.

This year, CNES is aiming to promote the expanding role of space in science and engineering culture, and to present its **vast catalogue of educational titles**, including CDs, DVDs, books and games published by CNES and with partners, to visitors from across the education and culture sectors. It will also be at the **Science Bar** to **exchange impressions with visitors and the media at two round table discussions:**

- Monday 20 March, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Space as a source of inspiration for French literature

With authors Hervé Le Sellier and Patrick Delperdange; Xavier North, from the French languages office; Jean-Luc Outers, in charge of promoting letters at the Belgian French community ministry; and Gérard Azoulay, Director of CNES's Space Observatory. Debate will focus on *Espace(s) n°2*, the 2006 issue of the Space Observatory's review, which contains 20 novellas by French, Belgian and Swiss authors, all taking as their starting point one of 10 words selected for the 11th French language week.

- Wednesday 22 March, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Earth: garden or dustbin? The planet's beauty, wounds and scars viewed from space

Taking the *Jardin de l'Espace* comic strip—produced through a partnership between CNES, the INRA agronomy research institute and Météo-France—as their cue, Violette Le Quéré-Cady, Jeannine Hommel from INRA and Jacques Arnould, CNES's space ethics officer, will exchange points of view on this topic with the audience. In this 7th album in the Okissé collection, the authors look at sustainable development from the angle of a police investigation, casting space tools and technologies, weather forecasting and land planning in a new light.

The round table speakers are available for interviews before or at the Book Fair. Do not hesitate to contact them.

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