

PRESS RELEASE

CELEBRATING SPACE: THE SEASON OF *FESTICIELS* CONTINUES

CNES is once more lending its support to Planète Sciences and has announced the sixth season of Festiciels (Space Festivals) and rocket launch campaigns!

A variety of 'Space' events will be taking place throughout France in June, to give the general public, and young people in particular, the chance to learn about Space in a fun, practical way. Teams of educators will be encouraging people to attend and participate in rocket launches, balloon releases, initiation workshops, astronomy observation evenings, exhibitions and lectures all devoted to Space and its many aspects.

Delegations from the Planète Sciences association will be celebrating Space through the theme of "when dreams take wing" in the French regions of Atlantique, Aquitaine, Franche Comté, Ile-de-France, Méditerranée, Midi-Pyrénées, Normandie, Picardie and Rhône.

Six years of convivial scientific events throughout France

The *Festiciels* and the rocket launch campaigns have been organised annually for the past six years by the Planète Sciences association, with the active support of CNES and local organisations. Intended to convey science culture to the heart of the French regions, these events aim to offer a fun and memorable way of discovering Space for all the family. This strategy has been a great success, with the number of visitors increasing each year.

Everyone can join in the fun

Visitors to the *Festiciels* can build and launch water rockets and micro-rockets, produce mini-satellites, visit exhibitions, attend lectures, participate in sky observation sessions in inflatable planetariums, discover projects led by young people, go on treasure hunts ... Events have been organised in a number of French regions: Atlantique, Ile-de-France, Méditerranée, Midi-Pyrénées, Normandie, Picardie and Rhône.

Rocket launch campaigns offer school and youth groups the chance to see the outcome of projects they have worked on all year, and allow the general public to watch these wonderful machines being launched. Young people of 15-25 years old can launch the mini-rockets, micro-rockets and experimental balloons they have built in their clubs or classes as part of the CNES "Rockets at school" programme.

Calendar of *Festiciels*

- from 7 to 9 June: Vaulx-en-Velin (69) in Rhône-Alpes
- from 8 to 10 June: Roupy (02) in Picardie
- 23 June: St-Pierre-du-Perray (91) in Ile-de-France

Calendar of regional launch campaigns

- 14 June: Captieux (33) in Aquitaine
- 21 June: Salon-de-Provence (13) in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur
- 22 June: Bourg-St-Bernard (31) in Midi-Pyrénées **\$\$ faute dans le français: pas en région PACA**
- 23 June: St-Pierre-du-Perray (91) in Ile-de-France

The festivities will culminate in the annually-held, national launch campaign for experimental rockets at La Courtine!

From 29 July to 4 August around thirty youth clubs will meet at the La Courtine military camp in the Creuse *département* to launch rockets built according to the same methodological model as that used by the Space industry manufacturers.

Close up

Since it was founded in 1961, **CNES** has undertaken to communicate and transmit knowledge and learning acquired from Space activities to young people and teachers, in particular by providing Space-related teaching materials. Through its association with Planète Sciences, it also offers rocket and balloon creation and launch activities to young people throughout France.

Planète Sciences is a network of associations governed by the 1901 Act which was created in 1962 to recommend, support and supervise experimental scientific and technical activities to young people as part of their leisure or school activities. Through its regional delegations, the association offers activities related to Space, astronomy, robotics, meteorology and the environment. Planète Sciences comprises 700 science clubs and 1,000 educators who work to raise awareness of scientific and technical culture with the young. Each year its campaign reaches 100,000 young people.

Contact details for further information on participating regions: www.cnes-edu.org

Press liaison: CNES: Sandra Laly, tel. +33 (0)1 44 76 77 32 / Planète Sciences: Vincent Riche, tel. +33 (0)1 69 02 76 21