

PRESS RELEASE

"S" for SUGAR, SPACE and SPOT

**CNES AT THE INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SHOW
25 February to 5 March 2006**

**Paris Expo – Porte de Versailles - Hall 2-2 - aisle C, stand 2i
Espace Odyssée Végétale**

At the start of the 21st century, CNES' ambition is to get space technologies working for society.

Space is indeed an area of study in itself and an unrivalled observatory for studying the Solar System and Universe. But it also provides a unique vantage point to view Earth, and that is the priority of France's space policy today.

Space applications are meeting pragmatic, real-world requirements in mapping, urban and land planning, natural resource management (water resources, forestry, mining, etc.) and, of course, agriculture, which is a key focus of investigation for the SPOT Earth observation satellites.

CNES will be at this year's International Agricultural Show in Paris, sharing a stand with the CEDUS sugar research and documentation centre, where it will be showing how space can also foster advances in unexpected areas like sugar beet cultivation.

CNES and EO satellite services provider Spot Image are working continuously to improve the way we manage and protect our planet, inspired by a sustainable development rationale.

Imaging Earth

SPOT (Satellite Pour l'Observation de la Terre) is a French programme in partnership with Belgium and Sweden. The SPOT system comprises a series of satellites—SPOT 1 launched in 1986, SPOT 2 in 1990, SPOT 3 in 1993, SPOT 4 in 1998 and SPOT 5 in 2002—and ground facilities for satellite tasking, data reception, image quality control and production of imagery from satellite data. Thanks to its Supermode sampling concept, SPOT 5 can discriminate features as small as 2.5 metres, while its High-Resolution Stereoscopic instrument (HRS) is capable of mapping relief and visualizing terrain in 3D. SPOT is set to be succeeded by the Pleiades programme, which will offer resolution of around one metre and is designed to meet the full range of European needs in the civil and defence sectors, for research and applications, and for commercial and public service purposes.

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