

PARIS, 1 February 2006
PR009/2006

PRESS RELEASE

**FRANCE AND ALGERIA SIGN AGREEMENT
ON THE PEACEFUL STUDY AND USES OF OUTER SPACE**

Hubert Colin de Verdière, France's Ambassador in Algeria, and Ramtane Lamamra, Secretary General of the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, signed a space agreement today, in Algiers. The agreement has a twofold objective: to develop synergies between the two nations' space agencies with a view to implementing a space cooperation programme, and to foster industrial and commercial partnerships between firms in both countries in the space sector.

France and Algeria have been cooperating for nearly 20 years, starting officially with the signature of a cultural, scientific and technical cooperation agreement on 11 March 1986. More recently, CNES President Yannick d'Escatha and Azzedine Oussedik, Director General of the Algerian space agency ASAL, signed a memorandum of understanding in Paris on 15 November 2004 geared toward identifying areas for scientific cooperation in space.

With this latest accord, cooperation between the two agencies will be driven by peaceful uses of outer space and promotion of space technologies for peaceful purposes.

A joint committee, made up of an equal number of representatives from ministries and the two agencies, will chart a roadmap for this cooperation and monitor its implementation in scientific and application fields.

This agreement confirms ASAL's commitment to rapidly develop an operational space programme and closely fits CNES's strategy, under the terms of its multi-year agreement with the French government, to foster international cooperation in space.

At the signing ceremony, a contract was also announced for EADS Astrium to deliver two optical satellites (ALSAT-2) built around CNES's Myriade spacecraft bus to Algeria's national centre for space technologies (CNTS).

*Press Contact: Sandra Laly - phone +33 (0)1 44 76 77 32 - +33 (0)6 08 48 39 31
Photos available from Photon - phone +33 (0)5 61 47 48 78 - +33 (0)5 61 47 04 32
For more information about CNES, visit www.cnes.fr*