

Press release

Paris, September 19, 2022

Business France and the National Center for Space Studies (CNES) sign a partnership to strengthen their collaboration in the space sector

Building on their complementary work and skills, implemented in France and abroad to support French businesses, Didier Boulogne, Chief Operating Officer (Export Division) at **Business France**, and François Alter, Advisor to the Chief Executive Officer of the **National Center for Space Studies (CNES)**, today signed a partnership that aims to take their co-operation even further in the development of the international space sector.

This collaboration between Business France and the CNES will result in:

- The international development of the “Connect by CNES” program, which offers local, operational and responsive support, enabling businesses of all sizes to integrate space technologies or applications and therefore add value to their projects.
- The development of sectoral expertise in the Business France space sector.
- The international influence of French knowledge and expertise in the space field.

The partnership notably provides for the creation of an annual program of joint measures in France and abroad, support for businesses in the international space sector and the production of expert content broadcast in France and abroad supported by the CNES and Business France.

“I’m delighted that through this partnership, the primary mission of Business France to contribute to the international development of our French businesses goes hand in hand with that of the CNES, which proposes and implements France’s space policy to key players in the economic and research world,” said Didier Boulogne, Chief Operating Officer (Export Division) at Business France. “As we continue our efforts in the regions and internationally, today it’s also a question for our two structures of strengthening our co-operation on the subjects of exports and the space sector.”

François Alter, Advisor to the Chief Executive Officer of the CNES, said: “The partnership that the CNES is entering into with Business France strengthens the ‘Connect by CNES’ offer internationally. Since its creation, the CNES has supported the French space industry in its development and participated in its export activities around the world. This new stage is the perfect illustration of the CNES’s mission to the industrial space sector, from startups to the nation’s flagship.”

This partnership will be deployed through collective missions, planned as part of the “France Export 2023” program in India, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United States.

About Business France

Business France is the national agency supporting the international development of the French economy, responsible for fostering export growth by French businesses, as well as promoting and facilitating international investment in France.

It promotes France's companies, business image and nationwide attractiveness as an investment location, and also runs the VIE international internship program.

Business France has nearly 1,500 personnel, both in France and in 56 countries around the world, who work with a network of partners.

Since January 2019, as part of the reform of the state support system for exports, Business France has given private-sector partners responsibility for supporting French SMES and mid-size companies in the following markets: Belgium, Hungary, Morocco, Norway, the Philippines and Singapore.

About the CNES

The National Center for Space Studies (CNES) is the public agency responsible for proposing French space policy to the government and implementing it within Europe. It designs and puts satellites into orbit, inventing the space systems of tomorrow; it also supports the development of new services, which are useful on a daily basis. Created in 1961, it is responsible for major space projects, launchers and satellites, and it is the natural contact for the industry to support exports and promote innovation. The CNES has infinite fields of application, which are divided into five areas: the Ariane launcher, scientific research, observation, telecommunications and defense. The CNES is a major player in technological research, economic development and industrial policy in France. It also forms scientific partnerships and is involved in numerous international co-operations. France, represented by the CNES, is the main contributor to the European Space Agency (ESA), which is made up of 22 member states and is responsible for leading Europe's space policy. www.cnes.fr

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