



Presidency CVA 2010

Speech of Mr. Alberto Ruiz Gallardon

Mayor of Madrid,

New president of Community of Ariane Cities (CVA)

It is a great honour for me to present the 2010 Community of Ariane Cities (CVA) Presidency Programme, which is held this year by Madrid thanks to the unanimous support and backing of all other cities that form part of this European association of municipalities sharing a connection based on their involvement in the European Space Transport sector.

When we joined the CVA, our aim was to show Madrid's unequivocal commitment with Space, both in Spain, where Madrid is the absolute leader in the sector, well ahead of all other Spanish cities; and in Europe, as Madrid is the second European city in terms of space sector relevance.

Yet, awareness of said facts, as relevant as they may be, still remains low, and thus one of the goals of our Presidency is to ensure that Madrid's society becomes well aware of the relevance of the Space sector for Madrid's economy, research and higher education. We also seek to help strengthen the Space sector Europe-wide, by working together with all other cities involved in this organization, and to whom we are so indebted for their support.

The CVA Madrid Presidency Programme is the product of a coordinated effort by a large number of institutional, business and civil society agents (listed in this volume). The programme features their contributions, which arise from their generosity and will to cooperate, and which have enabled us to put together a more comprehensive, diverse, and richer Programme. I would also like to thank, on behalf of the city of Madrid, all said actors, which are working hard to further enrich collective life in the capital city of Spain, as well as to increase the relevance of the Space sector in Spain and Europe.

Above all else, we specifically value the activities that focus on raising awareness of the relevance of Space among children and youth, as well as all contributions to their education and training in such a highly relevant sector for the future of Europe.

I have no doubt that the implementation of this programme will be as effective and open to participation as was its preparation, to ensure that its influence on Madrid's society leads to building the necessary awareness of the strategic significance of Space for the present and future of Madrid.

Alberto Ruiz-Gallardon
Mayor of Madrid