

The City of Toulouse announces its partnership with Telespazio France

Around 1000 specialists from about 40 different countries gathered in Toulouse for four days (8-11 June) at the Toulouse Space Show, a trade show for space applications. The aim of the show, inaugurated by Valérie Péresse, the French Minister for Higher Education and Research, was to "create greater awareness of the latest advances in space technologies and applications" and to "encourage and facilitate exchanges between the various international space players", according to the French Space Agency, CNES, which organised the event.

At the workshop entitled "*Le Transport spatial en Europe: quel rôle pour les collectivités locales et territoriales?*" (Space transport in Europe – the role of local and regional communities), organised by the Community of Ariane Cities (CVA), Thierry Cotelle, Deputy Mayor of Toulouse and Vice-President of the Economic Development and Employment Commission for greater Toulouse, proposed that Telespazio France should become an industrial partner associated with the City of Toulouse, a CVA member since October 2007. This new partnership will need to be confirmed by a vote of the CVA Council of Mayors at its meeting in Madrid on 7 October 2010.

Telespazio France, a subsidiary of Finmeccanica and Thales, employs 250 people for its space activities, of whom 120 are in French Guiana. Jérôme de Bailliencourt, Director of Satellite Operations for Telespazio France, warmly thanked the City of Toulouse and the CVA, and highlighted the benefits of this partnership. On this occasion, he stated: "We are proud of this partnership proposal. It rewards the efforts of our teams, which have been active at each Ariane launch for over 30 years at the Kourou base and here in mainland France. A career in ground operations is fascinating - such jobs are very important for the space sector and often overlooked by young professionals and students".

Mr Cotelle reaffirmed the City of Toulouse's support for the activities of the CVA and of all the organisations contributing to the dissemination of scientific and technical culture in the Midi-Pyrénées region, targeting in particular young people and the general public. Conscious of the benefits of space in people's daily lives, he also emphasised the CVA's potential ability to bring citizens and their city closer together and to facilitate the involvement of various groups.