

**United Kingdom/France Summit**  
**31 January 2014**

**Communiqué on Bilateral Cooperation in the field of Civil Space Activities**

The United Kingdom and France recognise that space is an ever-more important enabler of growth in the global economy and is vital for communications, navigation and weather forecasting. It contributes to our understanding of the environment we live in and has the power to fascinate and inspire generations of people.

International engagement and cooperation is essential to facilitating the further development of the space sector. The United Kingdom and France therefore welcome the **signature of a Framework Agreement between the United Kingdom Space Agency and the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales for reinforced cooperation in space activities**. The activities set out in the Framework Agreement will reinforce the long-term relationship between the two Space Agencies and will build on the contribution the two countries make to the space activities carried out through the European Space Agency, the European Union, EUMETSAT and other international organisations.

The new bilateral Framework Agreement will facilitate cooperation between the United Kingdom and France in four important areas where there will be significant benefits from joint work: Earth observation; telecommunications; space weather; and research and technologies in the space field. To make this cooperation a reality, the Framework Agreement will facilitate the following activities:

- the conception and development of joint space missions;
- carrying out joint research projects;
- joint development of hardware and software;
- the exchange of data, information and personnel; and
- the joint organisation of workshops, symposia, practical courses and presentations.

The United Kingdom and France welcome the immediate cooperation that will take place between the two countries that will be facilitated by the Framework Agreement, notably:

- collaboration on the new Infrared Atmospheric Sounding Interferometer (IASI) Next Generation instrument which will form part of future EUMETSAT weather satellites. This Franco-British collaboration on new weather satellites will help increase forecasting accuracy and will enhance the value of weather forecasting services to society and business.
- A UK contribution to the CNES/NASA mission to conduct the first ever global survey of Earth's surface water using the Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) satellite. SWOT will measure how water bodies on Earth change over time which will help improve ocean circulation models, weather and climate predictions and help freshwater management around the world.

The United Kingdom and France also welcome the consideration the two space agencies are giving to defining further joint work in other areas, such as space weather measurement, Earth observation and other space technologies.

The United Kingdom and France agree on the need for closer coordination of strategies and national positions taken in the European Union as well as in multilateral organisations such as the European Space Agency, and EUMETSAT, especially for the preparation of the next ESA ministerial Council in December 2014. They therefore welcome the agreement in the Framework Agreement to enhance this area of cooperation. They also welcome the setting up of a new bilateral Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of this agreement.

The United Kingdom and France welcome and look forward to the many years of fruitful bilateral cooperation that will be enabled through the signing of this Framework Agreement.