The team of the French Office for Science and Technology in Los Angeles hopes that you had a great summer and wishes you the best for this coming fall.

On August 6, 2012, the rover Curiosity flawlessly landed on Mars. It has now recently unleashed its laser and fired 30 pulses at a local rock named “Coronation” in a 10 second span. The ChemCam shot out the laser, which has over 1 million watts of power in each 5-billionths-of-a-second pulse, and vaporized Coronation into plasma. Spectrometers were then used to analyze the elemental composition of the rock in order to determine whether Mars was ever able to sustain life. JPL Scientists and Engineer have also determined their first drive spot called Glenelg, which intersects 3 different types of terrain. Curiosity will use its drilling tool on the layered bedrock terrain. In the next few days, JPL engineers will focus on the rover’s steering actuators.

During the 2012 International AIDS Conference on July 22nd through the 27th, the ANRS (French National Agency for Research on AIDS and Viral Hepatitis), the GIP ESTHER (Network for Therapeutic Solidarity in Hospitals), and the Office of Science and Technology, held a reception at the French Embassy in Washington, D.C. on July 24th, 2012. Over 300 guests were present, which included famous scientists, NGO representatives, US and foreign AIDS program facilitators, and ministers of health from several countries. The reception began by a warm welcome from the French Ambassador, François Delattre. The French Minister for Social Affairs and Health, Mrs. Marisol Touraine, spoke about the AIDS community and the role France is taking in the fight against AIDS worldwide. This reception was held to also honor Professor Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, 2008 Nobel Laureate in Physiology and Medicine, as the next President of the AIDS International Society.

Thank you and Bonne lecture!

Anissa Ghafarian, Science and Technology Intern
Manon Lecomte, Deputy Scientific Attaché
Fabien Agenes, Scientific Attaché

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