



Visit by Mr. François Delattre, Ambassador of France to the United States of America, to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the California Institute of Technology

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September 5th-7th, 2011, Mr. Delattre visited the laboratories of the [California Institute of Technology \(Caltech\)](#), to present the Legion of Honor to [Dr. Charles Elachi](#), Director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and Vice President of Caltech.

Accompanied by Mr. David Martinon, Consul General of France in Los Angeles, Mr. Delattre met Jean-Lou Chameau, the President of Caltech. Chameau mentioned that, in spite of the relatively small size of the institution (2,500 students), his drive is strongly focused on selectivity while recruiting his professorial body, and their reactivity in creating laboratories to work in emerging and innovating fields. There are numerous ongoing joint projects between France and Caltech supported by PUF funding ([Partner University Fund](#), [Ecole_Polytechnique-GALCIT/Caltech](#) and [CEA-LETI-Caltech](#)); student mobility is encouraged by the [Chateaubriand fellowship](#).

Mr. Yannick d'Escatha, President of [CNES \(Centre National d'Etudes, Spatial\)](#), led a delegation to follow-up on the progress of projects developed between CNES and JPL/Caltech. With Mr d'Escatha, Ambassador Delattre visited the Caltech laboratories and spoke with several scientists:

- Visit of the experimental lab of the MSL (Mars Science Laboratory) at JPL
- Visit of the white rooms of the [Kavli Nanoscience Institute](#)
- Presentation of recent activities in the field of Astronomy (with Dr. George Helou and Jonas Zmuidzinas)
- Visit of the Guggenheim Aerospace Laboratories with Dr. Ares Rosakis

The highlight of the evening was the presentation ceremony of the Legion of Honor to Mr. Elachi, director of JPL. Charles Elachi completed a portion of his studies in France, at the Polytechnic School of Grenoble, before beginning his career in the United States.

[Article on the website of the Consulate General of France in Los Angeles]