



## CNES: a pivotal player inventing the future of space

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The 2016 annual report of CNES outlines the action of the French space agency in the field of innovation and the groundwork for the future.

### 2016, the year of innovation

Three key initiatives, taking place in the context of the “*Innovation & Inspiration*” objectives and performance contract with the government for the 2016-2020 period, illustrate the action of the French space agency in the field of innovation: the establishment of a new *Directorate of Innovation, Application and Science* (DIA), the organization of a successful *Innovation Day* in Toulouse with a bottom-up approach which has been renewed and the implementation of disruptive programs in five core domains (Ariane, Sciences, Earth Observation, Telecommunications and Defense).

### 2016, the year of laying the groundwork for the future

In 2016, CNES convinces ESA’s member states to engage Europe in an ambitious program costing €10.3 billion, which can be seen as the groundwork for the future in various domains: launchers development (Ariane 6, Vega-C and low-cost Prometheus engine), exploration of the Universe (ExoMars program to land a rover on Mars in 2020), operation on the International Space Station through to 2024, connecting and surveying the planet (R&T programs, MicroCarb and MERLIN greenhouse gas monitoring satellites),...

With a budget increased by 10% for 2017, its world-class programs and its talented partners, CNES “*shall continue in 2017 to be a pivotal player inventing the future of space*”.

- More information : [CNES 2016 annual report \(pdf\)](#)