

Thales Alenia Space and French aerospace research center ONERA sign cooperation agreement

Paris, November 13, 2018 - Thales Alenia Space, the joint company between Thales (67%) and Leonardo (33%), a major player in the satellite, space exploration and orbital infrastructure market, and ONERA (*Office National d'Etudes et de Recherches Aérospatiales*), the French national aerospace research center, have signed an agreement to cooperate on space activities.

Thales Alenia Space and ONERA have already teamed up on a number of innovative space projects for several years, including Earth observation optics and Stratobus™, a program to develop a HAPS [High Altitude Platform System] type airship. The agreement signed today is designed to strengthen and structure the joint activities between Thales Alenia Space and ONERA so the two partners can carry out advanced research on subjects of common interest.

Thales Alenia Space and ONERA have already identified new topics entailing potential disruptive advances, in areas including telecommunications, optical imaging and understanding the space environment. The joint teams working on these subjects will be able to focus on identifying and developing innovative, high-value-added solutions for government and export markets, spanning both civilian and defense applications.

After signing the agreement, Jean-Loïc Galle, President and Chief Executive Officer of Thales Alenia Space, said: "I am delighted that we have signed this cooperation agreement, which culminates a long-standing partnership. We are fully aware of ONERA's advanced expertise in the space sector, and its excellent research and development capabilities. The agreement between Thales Alenia Space and ONERA will be an additional advantage in winning the innovation 'battle', to keep pace with the fast-evolving space sector and reaffirm our leadership."

Bruno Sainjon, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of ONERA, added: "The scientists at ONERA blaze new trails to shape the future of aerospace. This pivotal partnership with a major player like Thales Alenia Space will enable us to solidify our role as an innovation leader for the French government and industry, spanning sectors as varied as space telecommunications and very-high-resolution imaging."

Thales Alenia Space and ONERA have set up a management committee to oversee this new initiative, tasked with developing the collaboration strategy, and an executive committee, which will oversee developments in each of the targeted subjects.

About Thales Alenia Space

Drawing on over 40 years of experience and a unique combination of skills, expertise and cultures, Thales Alenia Space delivers cost-effective solutions for telecommunications, navigation, Earth observation, environmental management, exploration, science and orbital infrastructures. Governments and private industry alike count on Thales Alenia Space to design satellite-based systems that provide anytime, anywhere connections and positioning, monitor our planet, enhance management of its resources, and explore our Solar System and beyond. Thales Alenia Space sees space as a new horizon, helping to build a better, more sustainable life on Earth. A joint venture between Thales (67%) and Leonardo (33%), Thales Alenia Space also teams up with Telespazio to form the parent companies' Space Alliance, which offers a complete range of services. Thales Alenia Space posted consolidated revenues of 2.6 billion euros in 2017 and has 7,980 employees in nine countries. www.thalesaleniaspace.com

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ONERA, the French aerospace lab

ONERA is the French national laboratory for aeronautics and space R&T, staffed by more than 2,000 people. Under the supervision of the French Ministry of Defense, ONERA has an annual budget of 228 million euros, of which more than half comes from commercial contracts. As the French expert in aerospace technologies, ONERA prepares tomorrow's defenses, meets the aerospace challenges of the future, and contributes to the competitiveness of the European aerospace industry. ONERA masters all the disciplines and technologies in its aerospace fields. All major civil and military aerospace programs in France and Europe contain "DNA" from ONERA: Ariane, Airbus, Falcon, Rafale, missiles, helicopters, engines, radars, etc

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