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## CNES and ONERA review cooperation

**Thursday 10 September, CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall and Bruno Sainjon, Chairman & CEO of ONERA, the French aeronautics, space and defence research laboratory, met at CNES's Head Office in Paris to review the headway the two agencies have made on scientific and technological cooperation since signing a framework agreement on 30 March.**

The framework agreement signed on 30 March governs joint efforts by CNES and ONERA in launchers and orbital systems for a period of five years. A bilateral meeting was held yesterday at CNES Head Office between Mr Le Gall and Mr Sainjon to review initial progress and pick up the pace of this collaboration.

In launchers, as part of joint systems and R&T studies recently engaged, six programmes of shared interest in all have been formally initiated and another programme is set to kick off shortly. These programmes cover a diverse range of specific topics such as complex phenomena in solid- and liquid-propellant engines and design and sizing of composite structures. A joint activity plan for reusable launchers was also discussed.

In orbital systems, the other main area of the framework agreement, CNES and ONERA gave the go-ahead for a programme of shared interest in aerothermodynamics, focusing especially on modelling the re-entry of orbital debris into Earth's atmosphere. They also discussed two other programmes in preparation to be engaged before the end of the year, which could draw in particular on co-funded doctoral theses.

Lastly, in science missions discussions focused on climate and Earth Observation, and on how ONERA could best work with science teams for future projects.

After the meeting, CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall commented: "I am very pleased to say we had a most constructive meeting with Bruno Sainjon, which showed how far the cooperation between our two agencies has moved forward since we decided to step it up in October last year. Our joint efforts are already translating into projects and a mutual desire to innovate together."

### Contacts CNES

Pascale Bresson  
Alain Delrieu  
Julien Watelet  
Press office

Tel. +33 (0)1 44 76 75 39  
Tel. +33 (0)1 44 76 74 04  
Tel. +33 (0)1 44 76 78 37  
Tel. +33 (0)1 44 76 76 88

[pascale.bresson@cnes.fr](mailto:pascale.bresson@cnes.fr)  
[alain.delrieu@cnes.fr](mailto:alain.delrieu@cnes.fr)  
[julien.watelet@cnes.fr](mailto:julien.watelet@cnes.fr)  
[cnes-presse@cnes.fr](mailto:cnes-presse@cnes.fr)  
[cnes.fr/presse](http://cnes.fr/presse)