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PROMOTING SPACE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF A EUROPEAN REGION – EMP
INITIATIVE

Abstract

The Midi-Pyrénées region in France has a high potential in space activities, both in the field of industry, as research and training. The number of jobs generated by space in Midi-Pyrenees, is estimated at about 12 000, which represents about half of the national workforce and a quarter of the European workforce in space. The French Space Agency, CNES, wants to be an actor for the economic development of Midi-Pyrénées. This approach leads to a desire for openness and initiatives towards the academic sector, research and industry. The general public and, the technical, scientific and educational associations are also implied.

The last six years have been marked by the establishment in France of institutional initiatives oriented to research and innovation in which the Toulouse Space Centre (CST) of CNES is involved - "Aerospace Valley", the worldwide cluster dedicated to Aeronautics, Space and Embedded systems with the aim to strengthen the position of the space "from the satellite design to space applications", facilitating the emergence of new space applications by sharing tools and resources with our partners of Aeronautics and Embedded Systems and fostering innovation through cross-fertilization of knowledge. - the Advanced Research Thematic Network for Science and Technology Aeronautics and Space (RTRA STAE) with the goal of supporting and developing excellence in space research. - the "University of Toulouse" in order to participate in the structuring of the regional system for higher education and research.

To promote the coordination of large-scale actions aimed at strengthening the skills, expertise and influence of stakeholders in the Midi-Pyrénées region at national and international level, a strategic roadmap named "regional space plan" has been defined and signed so far by more than 70 regional stakeholders from research, industry, training and local authorities . Some examples of initiatives: - the organization every two years in Toulouse, alternating with the Paris Air Show, of an international event devoted to space applications: the Toulouse Space Show. - NEREUS, the "Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies" network, - GUIDE, the Innovation Platform : "GNSS Usage Innovation and Development of Excellence" - a business Institut devoted to the space applications.

The paper will develop all these initiatives devoted to the economic development of a territory, in relation with space.