



## Press Release and Application for Accreditation



Toulouse, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017

# In October 2017, Toulouse and The Cité de l'espace welcome the 30th Planetary Congress.

The 30th Planetary Congress is organized from **Monday 16 October to Friday 20 October** by the Association of Space Explorers (ASE), Toulouse Métropole and Cité de l'espace. This edition is hosted under the High patronage of the French Space Agency (CNES), with the official partnership of the European Space Agency (ESA) and the aeronautical and space company AIRBUS.

For this occasion, a hundred astronauts, cosmonauts, taikonauts etc. from all space nations will gather in Toulouse, The European space capital, to discuss manned space missions and future exploration projects.

Created by a schoolgirl from Toulouse, the motto of 2017 Congress is "**Space is my future**".

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<http://www.ase2017.fr/presse/index.php?langue=en&onglet=0>

### Promoting Space to the public

The Congress carries the values of the Space Explorers Association. It was created to introduce the benefits of space research and exploration to the general public, foster educational activities as well as promoting international space cooperation.

Throughout the week of the Congress, the sessions will gather astronauts and field specialists around the theme: "Space is my future", with attendance and testimonials from exceptional explorers such as Bertrand Piccard who will share his motivation for the preservation of our own spaceship, Earth.

Environment is a sensitive subject for the astronaut community, privileged witnesses from space of the diversity and the fragility of life on our planet. The Congress will welcome Thomas Pesquet, who recently carried out his space mission and will share his views and experience with his peers.

All along the week, delegates will share their experiences from space amongst field professionals.

Sessions on "**China's Space Program**" and "**Space Projects of the Future**" will also be held.

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The Congress has a dedicated day for the school audience, **Community Day**, on Thursday 19th October. The astronauts will participate in meetings with pupils, students, professors,



as well as with local institutions linked to education. The goal is to develop curiosity and scientific vocations among the youngest so that they become scientists, technicians, engineers or, why not, future astronauts.

### **“Space is my future”**

Submitted by a schoolgirl from Toulouse and chosen by the astronauts, the 2017 motto "Space is my future" will allow to focus on the importance of space activities in the exploration of our Solar System, fostering knowledge and dreams and in helping us manage and better understand our planet, whilst facilitating our everyday lives thanks to satellite applications.

The astronauts embody all these activities, where manned and robotic explorations of planets, space telescopes, Earth observation satellites and many more combine. They can report from the international space station ISS on the extraordinary fragility of our collective spaceship, and the limited resources of our world. As they come back, they help raise awareness and therefore contribute to strengthen environmental consciousness in each of us.

Guest of honour, explorer and promoter of environmental protection Bertrand Piccard, will open the first session on this topic on Monday 16th of October, joined by astronaut Thomas Pesquet.

This session will be led by Lionel Suchet, Deputy General Director at the CNES, alongside Astrophysicists Sylvestre Maurice (OMP - IRAP) and François Forget (CNRS), biodiversity specialist Gilles Bœuf (Collège de France) and climate specialist Pascal Lecomte (ESA).

### **Astronauts, cosmonauts and taikonauts under one roof at The cité de l'espace.**

From October 16th to October 20th, **Cité de l'espace**, Europe's premier centre for the dissemination of astronomy and space culture towards the general public, celebrating its 20th anniversary, will bring together more than 100 astronauts. Four "space continents" will be represented: Asia, the United States, Europe and Russia.

This 30<sup>th</sup> edition of the Planetary congress organised by the Association of Space explorers, Toulouse Metropole and The Cite de L'espace, is hosted under the High patronage of the French Space Agency (CNES), with the official partnership of the European Space Agency (ESA) and AIRBUS.

### **The 2017 planetary congress' steering committee**

**The committee's president is Jean Luc Moudenc**, President of Toulouse Métropole, Mayor of Toulouse and President of Cité de l'espace.

**It is made up of renowned astronauts:** Michel Tognini (President of ASE's European chapter) Jean-François Clervoy, Reinhold Ewald, Claudie Haigneré Jean-Pierre Haigneré

**and of partners and organiser's representatives:**

Lionel Suchet (CNES), Philippe Willekens (ESA), Nicolas Chamussy (AIRBUS), Jean Baptiste Desbois and Philippe Droneau (Cité de l'espace).



**Congress and Association of Space Explorers' (ASE) presentation:**

<http://www.ase2017.fr/index.php?langue=en&onglet=12&acces=&idUser=&emailUser=>

Reminder: Press access to the congress (Press conference, press briefings and sessions) will be reserved to accredited journalists. **Please complete the accreditation application below:**

<http://www.ase2017.fr/presse/index.php?langue=en&onglet=0>

#ASE30

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