

Space as a lead market for Europe

- Space, until now, was mainly an issue for governments, acting within national or intergovernmental agencies.
The parliaments, throughout Europe have marginally been involved in space policy. Nonetheless, times are changing with the most likely entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty which will officially confer to the EU a competence in space, shared with its Member states.
- The Conferences on Launchers in Kourou last summer and on space exploration held last week in Prague are preliminary expressions of this new responsibility. Let's hope it will continue to develop in an ambitious overall European vision for space.
- Let's first congratulate ourselves. I'm happy to say that Europe and its European industry did well in 2008, especially worth mentioning are the successes on the commercial telecommunication market, despite the dollar rate, which prove the competitiveness of European Industry. The successful launches of the Columbus laboratory, the first ATV and the Herschell and Planck observatory have worldwide proven the technological excellence of Europe in Space. Two weeks ago the 33th successful A5 launch on a row.
- All these results have been achieved because Europe has been ambitious and proactive, I see 3 fields, clearly to be differentiated:
 - o driven by the wish to satisfy its curiosity in science / exploration and technology (ESA science program, International Space Station, Columbus Laboratory) leading to our technological excellence
 - o driven by its wish to achieve an independent access to space, leading to Arianespace / Ariane 5 being the market leader in the commercial launch arena
 - o driven by the wish to serve the citizens with global space infrastructures enabling a multitude of applications (telecom, navigation, EO) and help grasp the share it deserves of the commercial market (telecom and some EO) leading to a very competitive European industry in the applications domain.
- ESA has been instrumental in this success and must be given the means to continue, however, clear roles and responsibilities for EC, ESA, member states and national agencies are needed to maximize the output for Europe in the global context
- Somewhat changed paradigm. In former times, technology push was a main driver, nowadays applications, eg Telecommunication, Galileo, GMES and MTG, are main drivers and with those new commercial / industrial schemes are being investigated / implemented (strong push from UK, copied now by eg ESA et al: eg. Skynet 5 / Paradigm for UK military communication services; Spotimage/Infoterra for EO; Disaster Monitoring Control DMC; Hylas / Avanti).
- They are more than just new space programmes: they are public space-based infrastructures, tackling policy driven objectives (communication / connectivity/digital divide, mobility, environmental understanding / protection, security, innovation, ...).

- Space is becoming a key asset to deal with major global challenges:
 - o Properly manage our resources that we know to be limited: management of terrestrial and maritime transportation, monitoring of the environment, modelisation of the climate change and assessment of its impacts and many others.
 - o Contribute to the security of citizens: earth observations, borders surveillance, disaster management, ...
 - o Pushing the borders of our knowledge society (understanding of our earth, exploration, micro-gravity experiments, life supports systems etc.)

- Space technologies are key enablers to all these fields.
 But space capabilities are not self sufficient to provide efficient, operational end to end services. The complementarity with non space resources dramatically increases efficiency and capabilities of the systems to be deployed.
 The design, development and operations of such interactive architectures are the next challenge ahead of us.

- Space solutions typically serve a multitude of user communities; they are enabling infrastructures at the basis of many applications serving our European citizens / Mankind.

- In this context we need to develop appropriate tools for decisions making to be able to get the required cross-divisional coordination and supporting budgets from various sources. For this, we have to ensure to have the right regulations in place.

- Many future space systems are meant to become operational infrastructures and thus cannot any more be funded solely by R&D budgets. Europe urgently needs to set up the right legal and budgetary framework to cope with this new situation and empower European institutions in their new role of owner of a space infrastructure, to ensure the sustainability of this infrastructure.

- Regarding the “non-applications” fields (science, exploration (manned & robotic), independent access to space), industry needs continuity! Stable visions / framework programs / budgets have to be set by politicians to ensure the long-term European industrial excellence in these fields!

- Space is a leverage, an enabler which has the unique ability to achieve outstanding objectives with relatively limited investments. This leverage is between your hands.