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ArianeGroup, Eutelsat and Magellium selected to improve French space surveillance capabilities

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- The consortium led by ArianeGroup, in association with Eutelsat and Magellium, has been awarded a contract by CNES under the *France 2030* investment plan, to improve space surveillance performance in all orbits.
- A combination of new-generation ground-based sensors and orbiting optical sensors will help broaden existing services, increasing the amount of data collected on satellites and space

debris.

- The project combines the expertise of ArianeGroup, which provides high value-added space surveillance services through its network of ground-based telescopes, Eutelsat for in-orbit and space segment services, and Magellium for image processing.

ArianeGroup, Eutelsat and Magellium have won a contract from the French space agency (CNES), as part of the space component of the *France 2030*. Investing for the Future plan, with the aim of enhancing space surveillance capabilities in order to substantially improve the security of space operations.

The consortium will provide CNES with a Space Situational Awareness (SSA) data service through the deployment of multi-orbital optical sensors, and the development and implementation of an optical space segment in geostationary transfer orbit (GTO), to complement and enhance the performances of the existing ground-based network operated by ArianeGroup.

ArianeGroup is the prime contractor on this project and will supply the surveillance services provided by its ground-based network of telescopes, supplemented by data from the spaceborne sensor that will be developed during the project and then interconnected to ArianeGroup's system. *"This contract recognizes the quality and efficiency of the space surveillance services already provided by ArianeGroup to its government, institutional and private customers. It is also a vote of confidence in our ability to bring together the very best expertise, provided by partners with complementary skills. Developing sovereign space surveillance capabilities is a strategic priority for France and Europe. We are proud to contribute together to improving security in space, for the benefit of European citizens,"* said Philippe Clar, Defense Programs Director at ArianeGroup.

This project will build on ArianeGroup's ongoing activities through its telescope surveillance network comprising 15 stations worldwide, which today provides services to government, institutional, and private customers. ArianeGroup provides high-precision daytime and nighttime positioning and orbitography data, and analyzes space objects in various orbits. The service is fully geared to the surveillance, tracking and collision warning needs of civil and military satellite operators, allowing them to protect their satellites against all forms of risk.

Eutelsat, as a co-contractor, will design, procure and operate the first satellite

in this space segment and supply the necessary data. To achieve this, Eutelsat has teamed up with Sodern, which has a proven track record in the development and manufacture of cameras for SSA applications, to design and build the on-board space sensor. "Exo-atmospheric space is a new challenge for Europe's sovereignty and the protection of its space infrastructure. Eutelsat intends to play its part in the global effort to monitor space and understand its environment by leveraging its multi-orbit, multi-mission infrastructure while joining forces with a leading player in space surveillance," explained Serge Cholley, Director of Security and Defence at Eutelsat.

As a French telecommunications satellite operator for the past 45 years, Eutelsat has built up extensive expertise in the space environment by protecting its fleet from orbital risks. It is this know-how that the company is seeking to make available to French and European stakeholders to protect human lives and assets. Eutelsat's ambition is twofold: To become the leading space surveillance operator capable of protecting commercial space operations and to be a trusted partner in France's defence space strategy.

Magellium, also a co-contractor on the project, will develop the image processing for use on different types of optical payloads. Magellium was founded in 2003, based on independent and sovereign expertise in space image processing and its downstream applications. This expertise has been serving space surveillance since 2015, with the development of the space object detection and tracking function of the Tarot satellites for CNES, followed by a noteworthy participation in the EU SST project on the same function, adapted to onboard processing and completed by a versatile and "high-fidelity" simulator of space observation scenes from both the ground and space. On this ambitious project, Magellium will be implementing its cutting-edge onboard solutions, resulting from its most recent R&D.

The "Data Catalog for Space Surveillance" RFP was launched on April 29, 2022 and was assigned by the French government to CNES as operator of the *France 2030* space component. The objective is to significantly improve the security of space operations through data collection.

The consortium was selected in December 2022 from among the five short-listed contenders, with its proposal to develop innovative optical sensors, both on Earth and in space. These sensors will aim to significantly improve the number of objects catalogued in all orbits, as well as their precise orbital

location and the regularity of observation, while detecting smaller objects.

The synergies made possible by the combination of new-generation ground-based sensors and satellites equipped with optical sensors will significantly improve the data collected by ArianeGroup's command and control center. The processing and analysis of this new data will contribute to the development of space surveillance services.

The project will commence with a 24-month pre-operational phase, followed by an 18-month operational service demonstration phase, as decided by CNES.

This contract is financed by the French Government under the "France 2030" investment plan.

About ArianeGroup

ArianeGroup is lead contractor for civil and defense space launcher systems, responsible for the design and the entire production process of Europe's Ariane 5 and Ariane 6, including marketing and operation by its Arianespace subsidiary, as well as for the design, manufacture, and operational condition maintenance of the missiles of the French oceanic deterrent force. Internationally recognized for its innovative, competitive solutions, ArianeGroup has expertise in all aspects of state-of-the-art space propulsion technologies. ArianeGroup and its subsidiaries also offer their specialist skills in space equipment, services, space surveillance, and critical infrastructure to benefit other industrial sectors. Equally owned by Airbus and Safran, the group employs more than 8,000 highly qualified staff in France and Germany. Its 2022 revenues amounted to €2.4 billion.

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About Magellium

Magellium was founded in 2003 and joined the Artal Group in 2016 to form the new entity Magellium Artal Group, which currently employs over 300 engineers and doctors. The Group's offering promotes the use of image data for both civilian and military purposes, for the benefit of the Planet and Regions. These services, which draw on expertise in all data processing technologies, apply to Earth Observation, Environmental and Climate Change Monitoring, Planetary Exploration, Space Surveillance, Defense and Digital Geography.

Magellium is recognized for its expertise in major European space programs, including Copernicus (on which it operates the European high-resolution service for monitoring snow cover and river and lake ice extent), EU SST and the ESA Climate Change Initiative program in which Magellium is the holder and leader of a very innovative scientific project. Magellium is also expanding internationally and has achieved prestigious success on several continents.

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About Eutelsat Communications

Founded in 1977, Eutelsat Communications is one of the world's leading satellite operators. With a global fleet of satellites and associated ground infrastructure, Eutelsat enables clients across Video, Data, Government, Fixed and Mobile Broadband markets to communicate effectively to their customers, irrespective of their location. Around 7,000 television channels operated by leading media groups are broadcast by Eutelsat to one billion viewers equipped for DTH reception or connected to terrestrial networks. Committed to promoting all facets of sustainable development across its business activities, Eutelsat leverages its in-orbit resources to help bridge the digital divide while maintaining a safe and uncluttered space environment. As an attractive and socially responsible employer, Eutelsat assembles 1,200 men and women from 50 countries who are dedicated to delivering the highest quality of service.

Eutelsat Communications is listed on the Euronext Paris Stock Exchange (ticker: ETL).

For more about Eutelsat go to www.eutelsat.com

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