

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Almost 350 participants last week end for the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of DefInSpace, the international Hackathon of the French Space Commandment: 24 teams will present their projects on 12 December in Paris at the semi-finals and the international final**

**For its 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, DefInSpace, the hackathon of the French Space Commandment (CDE, or Commandement de l'Espace), gathered 348 participants (students and young professionals with less than 3 years of experience), in France and over the world, to imagine, in just 24 hours, solutions for the space defence of tomorrow.**

**Their mission: take up challenges related to space control, with a focus this year on satellite constellations. The 24 selected teams will take part in the semi-finals and the international final, on 12 December, in Paris.**

Created in in 2021 by the Commandement de l'Espace and organised by the Aerospace Valley competitiveness cluster, DefInSpace takes place like a regular hackathon: *24 hours to imagine solutions for tomorrow's space defence!*

The goal of DefInSpace is to help find innovative solutions to support the CDE in its missions in terms of space control, and to publicly promote its image. This hackathon illustrates the will of the CDE to demonstrate that certain military space issues can be addressed in an agile and collective way, through the challenges proposed during the hackathon.

**For this 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of DefInSpace, almost 350 participants, constituting 82 teams gathered simultaneously, in 11 schools in 6 cities in France (Bordeaux, Brest, Lyon, Paris, Salon-de-Provence and Toulouse)\* and 5 countries over the world (Cyprus, Italy, Mexico, Peru and Singapore)\*\*, to take up 2 challenges (General / Technical) and propose innovative solutions that address the new issues related to satellite constellations.**

More than half the satellites in orbit today belong to constellations, whether they are used for telecoms, navigation or earth observation. The development of these constellations is exponential and raises many questions, such as space congestion, competition between players, access to launchers... all likely to transform both the economic models and the space landscape.

*\*Arts et Métiers in Bordeaux ; Ecole de l'Air et de l'Espace in Salon-de-Provence ; Ecole Navale in Brest ; Institut d'Etudes de Stratégie et de Défense in Lyon ; ISAE SUPAERO in Toulouse ; Université Paris-Saclay in Paris*

*\*\*Cyprus Space Exploration Organisation in Cyprus; DAC Campania Aerospace District in Italy ; Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico, UNSA in Peru ; Space Faculty in Singapur*

The DefInSpace challenges this year were: « *Space constellations: how can the Ministry of Defense take advantage of this new type of space infrastructure?* » for the **Technical Challenge**, and «*What issues (political, legal, economic, safety-related, diplomatic...) must the future IRIS<sup>2</sup> constellation address in order to encourage the emergence of a dual interoperability between the different constellations (telecom, observation, GNSS ...)?* », for the **General Challenge**.

In each participating country, after the 24 hours of the hackathon, a jury composed of members from various backgrounds (industry, consultancy and academic world) examined the different projects and chose **the 24 teams who will participate in the semi-finals and the international final, on 12 December at The Bridge, in Issy-les-Moulineaux near Paris.**

The two winning teams, one for each Challenge, will have the chance to visit the European Space Centre in Kourou, French Guyana.

**DefInSpace 2023 wishes to thank its sponsors:**

*Agenium, Airbus, ArianeGroup, CGI, CS Group, Exotrail, Hypr Space, KIneis, Loft Orbital, Look Up Space, MathWorks, Orange, Safran, Scassi, Share my space, Sophia Engineering, Sopra Steria, Telespazio, Thales, The Exploration Company, Way4Space*

**And its partners:**

*Direction Générale de l'Armement (DGA), Agence de l'Innovation de Défense (AID), Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) and Centre d'Etudes Stratégiques Aérospatiales (CESA), whose experts en lien avec les enjeux in innovation for Spatial Defence support the participants.*

**To find out more: [www.definspace.fr](http://www.definspace.fr)**

**About DefInSpace:**

*Created in 2021, DefInSpace is part of the strategy of the Commandement de l'Espace to promote the search for innovative solutions to ensure its missions in terms of space control, while promoting its image and enabling the participants to discover the unknown world of space defence and its related new jobs. With the recent apparition of New Space, marking the opening of space to the private sector, and with the massive arrival of new technologies, space is becoming a field for confrontation and a stake for national security. DefInSpace is the occasion for the French Ministry of Armed Forces to communicate on its activities and the space issues it will have to face, by demonstrating that they can be addressed in an agile and collective way.*

**About the French Space Commandment:**

*Created in 2019, The French Space Commandment (CDE) is an inter army-based organisation, placed under the command of the Air and Space Forces, embodying the space defence strategy and playing an essential role in the ramp-up of space defence. Bearing the Ministry's military space expertise, the CDE advises the Army Chief of Staff as well as all the internal or external organisations on military space topics. Cooperating with many players, in particularly the CNES (French National Centre for Space Studies), it contributes to defining the military space politics and implements it. It also leads military space operations.*

**About Aerospace Valley :**

*Based in France, Aerospace Valley is Europe's first aerospace cluster, the only community in the world federating all the actors of the value chain for all of the aeronautics and space segments, in the Occitanie and Nouvelle-Aquitaine regions. Supporting the strategic sectors of Aeronautics, Space and Drones and thanks to its 5 Excellency Ecosystems, Aerospace Valley drives a supportive, competitive and attractive community, aimed at fostering innovation in view of growth. Ranking among the world top three clusters for the performance of its cooperative R&T projects (among which 794 have already been financed since the cluster was launched in 2005, for a total amount of € 1.9 Billion invested and €797 Million public aid), Aerospace Valley is in charge of animating a dynamic network of international reputation, composed of 835 members (companies, research laboratories, training centres, universities and schools, local authorities, economic development structures), including 590 SMEs.*

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