



PRESS RELEASE

Toulouse, October 21, 2013

**CNES,  
Astrium, Thales Alenia Space,  
Toulouse Business School,  
& Toulouse I Capitole University,  
are launching the SIRIUS Chair:**

**The first international private research Chair dedicated to Law and  
Business Management for Activities in the Space Sector**

*Sirius is now in orbit. The "Space Institute for Researches on Innovative Uses of Satellites" is born of a unique public, academic and industrial partnership between EADS Astrium and Thales Alenia Space, the most significant private actors of the space sector in Europe, the French National Center for Space Studies (CNES), and two academic excellence establishments. Lucien Rapp, Professor at Toulouse 1 Capitole University, will provide scientific leadership for SIRIUS, alongside Denis Lacoste, Director of Research at TBS. Under their aegis, a team of top-ranking international experts will carry out research work on the legal and managerial challenges currently posed by changes in the aerospace industry. Seldom explored until recently, these themes feature amongst the priorities for France and Europe, but also for the Midi-Pyrénées region, given the 12,000 employees which work there today - close to one quarter of the European space industry. Sirius: an initiative which took shape on Monday October 21, 2013 with the signing of the partnership agreement between its five co-creators.*

On October 21, 2013, **Marc Pircher**, head of Toulouse Space Center (CNES), **Eric de Saintignon** and **Jean-Pierre Vialaneix**, respectively director of Astrium in Toulouse and director of Thales Alenia Space in Toulouse, have formalized their commitment concerning the creation of the Sirius Chair, alongside **Bruno Sire**, chairman of the Toulouse 1 Capitole University and **Jacques Igalens**, director of Toulouse Business School. The Sirius Chair was thus born in a place that is symbolic on two counts: the *Cité de l'Espace*, an emblem of Toulouse as the European capital for aerospace, and the Midi-Pyrénées region, which is the first aerospace cluster in Europe and a world leader in Earth observation, operational oceanography, location and navigation.



Photo Manuel Huynh

From left to right: Marc PIRCHER - Head of Toulouse Space Center – CNES, Eric de SAINTIGNON - Director of ASTRIUM in Toulouse, Didier Le BOUL'CH - Director of R&D and Product Strategy - THALES ALENIA SPACE France, Bruno SIRE - President of Toulouse 1 Capitole University, Jacques IGALENS – Director of Toulouse Business School.



Photo Manuel Huynh

From left to right: Jacques IGALENS – Director of Toulouse Business School, Eric de SAINTIGNON - Director of ASTRIUM in Toulouse, Bruno SIRE - President of Toulouse 1 Capitole University, Jean-Pierre VIALANEIX, Director of Thales Alenia Space in Toulouse, Marc PIRCHER - Head of Toulouse Space Center – CNES.

### ***Sirius Chair: public and private actors of the space sector are actively involved***

The three partners associated with the creation of the Sirius Chair, **Astrium, CNES, and Thales Alenia Space**, have actively participated in the creation of a **unique research space**. Their common interest for the creation of a chair dedicated to the legal and managerial challenges of aerospace activities is an echo of the leading role played by these major industrial actors on a European scale. The Sirius Chair will also strengthen the expertise of *Aerospace Valley*, a Toulouse-based business cluster of international caliber which leverages a dense network of 150 SMEs, engineering schools, universities, and research laboratories.

**Eric of Saintignon, director of Astrium in Toulouse**, underscores the benefits of having an international research group pertaining to the legal and economic issues of space activities: *"How will the legal framework evolve for companies of the space sector on a worldwide scale? Why is innovation managed differently in the space sector than in other industrial sectors? It is on this type of issues that the best experts, lawyers and economists, gathered within the SIRIUS Chair, will be working. Astrium wanted to be a part of this, because our position as number two worldwide, and especially as the only company in the world to be present in all space activities, led us to face very different issues in a sector that is perpetually evolving"*.

***What is our legal responsibility in case of poor integrity of space-based signals or data? What are the issues with regards to insurances, individual freedom and image rights? What are the managerial and economic changes induced by evolutions in the space sector? These challenges are what the Sirius Chair will need to provide answers for.***

**Marc Pircher, Head of Toulouse Space Center**, agrees with this idea: *"We are always on the lookout for new applications, which often raise important questions. The example of observation and location satellites is enlightening: what indeed is our legal responsibility in case of poor integrity of space-based signals or data, or in terms of privacy? What are the legal issues with regards to insurances, individual freedom and image rights? This example is a good illustration of the issues which can come across our research and development"*.

*"The creation of the SIRIUS chair is an excellent initiative which confirms that Space is a sector with a strong potential that has only been very partially tapped until now"*, **Jean-Pierre Vialaneix, director of Thales Alenia Space in Toulouse explains**. *"The topics that will be addressed in depth by top-ranking researchers and PhD students will make it possible to compare expectations and constraints from institutions, territorial authorities, citizens and businesses to unearth new political, financial, legal or industrial models paving the way for future developments which will generate employment and economic benefits for France"*.

## ***TBS and Toulouse I Capitole University, an exemplary partnership between Business School and University***

Under the scientific leadership of Professor Lucien Rapp, research teams from UT1 Capitole and TBS will initiate studies on behalf of businesses belonging to the French aerospace industry. They will contribute to their broadcasting through the organization of specialized and dedicated symposiums, seminars and workshops. *"This is why the Sirius Chair is an ambitious project, and a very symbolic one with regards to the partnerships implemented and the services provided, **Lucien Rapp, professor at UT1 Capitole, scientific director for the Chair,** and one of the best international legal experts in*

***The Treaty of Lisbon has given to Space a truly strategic dimension. This momentum continues today within the framework of the Horizon 2020 program, which has replaced the 7th European Research Framework Programme, making aerospace one of the 6 priority industrial sectors to support". A European priority which strengthens and justifies the orientations of the Sirius Chair***

**aerospace and telecommunications, stated. Denis Lacoste, scientific co-director of the Sirius Chair,** indicated for his part that his research themes, *"unexplored to date, will have a very strong added value from an industrial standpoint", and will benefit from the "proximity between research teams and the industrial and institutional environments linked to the aerospace industry."*

The two scientific co-directors have both pointed out the significance of aerospace in Europe: *"The Treaty of Lisbon has given Space a truly strategic dimension. This momentum continues today within the framework of the Horizon 2020 program, which has replaced the 7th European Research Framework*

*Programme, making aerospace one of the 6 priority industrial sectors to support". A European priority which will echo favorably within the Sirius Chair, as evidenced by the ambitious research program announced by the partners. "We will strengthen our understanding of the **legal and regulatory phenomena and mechanisms, as well as those pertaining to management or economy, which are directly linked to the specificities of the space sector. I am thinking in particular of market procedures, litigation, intellectual and industrial property, competition law applied to space activities, or even to personal data and privacy protection"**, Jacques Igalens, Director of TBS, specifies. These themes will build on the strength of a wide network of qualified researchers, in France and abroad.*

### ***An international scientific recognition***

The Sirius Chair is based upon a **skills network composed of doctoral students, post-doctoral students and experts, hailing from various geographic backgrounds.** The Sirius Chair will place this skills network **at the service of the European space industry.** Astrium, CNES, and Thales Alenia Space will be involved with the organization of **international symposia and specialized seminars** in Toulouse, on topical subjects relating to the whole space industry.

### ***Sustained support for research***

A chair makes it possible to finance research activities (supervision of PhDs, studies, symposia) over time **through the support of private or public actors**. Created for a first period of 5 years, **the Sirius Chair is financed by CNES, Astrium and Thales through the Toulouse Business School Foundation**.

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### About CNES

The National Center for Space Studies (CNES) is a state-owned industrial and commercial establishment (EPIC) which is in charge of proposing France's space policy within Europe to the French government, and of implementing this policy. As such, it "invents" the space systems of the future, masters all space techniques, and guarantees an autonomous access to space for France.

A major actor of Europe's space sector, CNES makes proposals to maintain France and Europe's competitive edge. France's participation to the European Space Agency (ESA) is also handled by CNES.

It works with scientific and industrial partners which carry out the space programs it designs. It is a member of numerous international cooperations, which are inseparable from any major space policy.

### About Astrium

Astrium is the first space technology company in Europe and the third worldwide. It is the only company in the world to cover the full range of civil and military space systems, equipments and services.

In 2012, Astrium generated a sales revenue of more than 5.8 billion Euros with 18,000 employees worldwide.

Its three main areas of activity are Astrium Space Transportation, the general European contractor for launchers, orbital systems and space exploration; Astrium Satellites, one of the main suppliers of satellite systems, such as satellites, on-ground segments, payloads and equipment; and Astrium Services, the partner of space services for critical missions, and a supplier of fixed or mobile solutions which cover secure satcoms and commercial networks, as well as tailor-made geo-information services for the whole world.

Astrium is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the EADS Group, the worldwide leader in aeronautics, space, defense and associated services. In 2012, the Group - which is composed of Airbus, Astrium, Cassidian and Eurocopter - generated a sales revenue of 56.5 billion Euros, with a workforce of more than 140,000 employees.

### About Thales Alenia Space

European leader of satellite systems and major actor of orbital infrastructures, Thales Alenia Space is a joint venture between Thales (67%) and Finmeccanica (33%). Alongside Telespazio, Thales Alenia Space forms a space Alliance between the two groups. Thales Alenia Space sets the global standard in solutions for space telecoms, radar and optical Earth observation, defense and security, navigation and science. Thales Alenia Space generated a sales revenue of 2.1 billion Euros in 2012 and has 7,500 employees in France, Italy, Spain, Germany, Belgium and the United States.

[www.thalesaleniaspace.com](http://www.thalesaleniaspace.com)

### About Toulouse I Capitole University, an autonomous university with an international reputation

Autonomous since January 1st, 2009, Toulouse 1 Capitole University has its origin in the Faculty of Canon Law created in 1229. Drawing its strength from a widely recognized ancient tradition in the fields of Law and Politics, it diversified its research and its teachings as early as 1960s by developing top-ranking teams in economics, law, politics and management. The reputation of its economics school (TSE), of its Faculty of Law and Politics and of its Institute of Business Administration (IAE) has today largely gone beyond national borders, placing it amongst the top-ranking research and education centers in Europe.

Toulouse 1 Capitole University is, with five other establishments, a founding member of the Research and Higher Education Cluster (PRES) of Toulouse University, which allows it to share resources so that its offer captures all the potential gains from its Toulouse location.

#### Check out:

- **UT1 Capitole's agenda:** [www.ut-capitole.fr/agenda](http://www.ut-capitole.fr/agenda)
- **UT1 Capitole's current events:** [www.ut-capitole.fr/actualites](http://www.ut-capitole.fr/actualites)

### About Toulouse Business School

Founded in 1903 by Toulouse's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Toulouse Business School is now composed of three campuses (Toulouse, Barcelona and Casablanca) and a branch in Paris. TBS offers six programs (Business School program, Bachelor program, Specialized Masters program, MBA program, Executive Education and CPA for the ongoing education programs). Its mission is to: Train top-ranking decision-makers regardless of where they come from and where they will carry out their responsibilities in the future; contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the main disciplines of management through its Management Research Centre.

These programs are essentially focused on HR, marketing, finance, accounting, consultancy and audit, but also on the cultural field, the humanitarian sector, entrepreneurship... An essential actor of the Midi-Pyrénées region, Toulouse Business School is also developing its program offer in the aeronautics sector (Aerospace MBA, MS in Logistics, Procurement and International Trade, MS in Air Transport Management...) with partner businesses and schools.

Toulouse Business School is one of very few schools granted the triple EQUIS/AMBA/AACSB international accreditation.

Open to the world, TBS has signed more than 150 exchange student agreements with universities from all continents. Close to 80 nationalities are represented on the various campuses.