

PRESS RELEASE

## CLS acquires Ground Control and strengthens its global leadership in satellite IoT serving the environment and the security of critical infrastructure

Toulouse, France – CLS, a leading provider of innovative satellite-based services dedicated to the study, protection, and sustainable management of the planet's resources, today announces the acquisition of Ground Control, a UK- and US-based specialist in satellite IoT devices and cloud-based monitoring platforms.

**Amid the rapid expansion of satellite IoT solutions, the acquisition of Ground Control strengthens CLS's standing as a leader in both technology and environmental responsibility.**

For over 40 years, CLS has been at the forefront of using satellite IoT to address two of the most pressing global challenges:

- **Environmental protection and climate change adaptation:** monitoring biodiversity, herd management, smart agriculture, sustainable fisheries, observing oceans, ice and hydrological systems, detecting pollution, and deploying early-warning systems for natural disasters such as wildfires and floods.
- **Security of people, assets and critical infrastructure:** humanitarian staff and vehicles, monitoring of global maritime traffic, pipelines, dams and energy networks that require continuous and reliable surveillance, including in remote and hard-to-reach areas.

Ground Control brings to CLS its recognised expertise in designing rugged satellite communication terminals, from its cost effective, plug-and-play **RockBLOCK** modules for simple sensor and gateway connectivity, to its **RockREMOTE** series, built to handle more advanced IoT and M2M requirements. The acquisition also strengthens CLS's portfolio of web-based platforms with **Cloudloop**, an enhanced device and data management platform already used by critical sectors such as energy, transport and emergency communications.

As the long-standing operator of the Argos satellite-based data collection and localisation system, CLS was tracking objects long before the advent of GPS. A subsidiary of CNES (French Space Agency), and the investment company CNP, CLS pioneered satellite data collection and geolocation services, which remain at the core of its activities. Over the years, the company has become a global player in satellite IoT solutions.

Ground Control's technologies enrich CLS's already extensive ecosystem, which includes beacons, services, decision-support cloud platforms, forecasting models and artificial intelligence tools. While CLS and Ground Control sometimes operate in the same strategic sectors, they address different complementary customer bases and offer distinct yet interoperable technologies.



**Stéphanie Limouzin, President of The CLS Group:**

"Combining CLS's space-based IoT services with Ground Control's robust hardware and cloud platforms makes perfect sense.

This move will allow us to better serve our clients with enhanced proximity, agility, and a broader portfolio of tools adapted to their operational environments."

This acquisition brings four new operational sites, alongside CLS's existing 31 offices on five continents, creating a network of **35 locations and over 1,100 employees**.



**Alastair McLeod, Ground Control's CEO:**

"Joining CLS is a natural evolution for Ground Control.

Together, we offer end-to-end solutions, hardware, connectivity, platform, support, with stronger global coverage and shared environmental values."

Clients of both CLS and Ground Control will now benefit from a unified ecosystem of solutions, supported by expanded local presence, increased R&D capacity, and a shared commitment to delivering planet-positive innovation.

The CLS Group has achieved steady growth and strategic international expansion.

Since its founding in 1986 as a subsidiary of the National Center for Space Studies (CNES) and the investment company CNP, CLS has continuously innovated in space-based solutions to monitor and protect the Planet.

CLS realises growth that underscores the company's strong strategy and ability to thrive in the global market. This acquisition marks the group's **18th since it began external growth initiatives** in 2008.

Ground Control has been advised by HCR, legal advisors, and IAGC, acting as financial advisors. CLS has been advised by its legal advisors, Capital Law (UK) and Meister Seelig & Fein (USA).



**PRESS CONTACTS:**

Valérie SABINEU – [v.sabineu@verbatee.com](mailto:v.sabineu@verbatee.com) +33 (0) 6 61 61 76 73

Amélie PROUST – [aproust@groupecls.com](mailto:aproust@groupecls.com) +33 (0) 6 62 80 45 92

Liz WILSON – [liz.wilson@groundcontrol.com](mailto:liz.wilson@groundcontrol.com) + 44 (0) 1452 751 940

## More about CLS

CLS is a global company, mission-driven, and pioneer provider of monitoring and surveillance solutions for the Earth, created in 1986. We are subsidiary of the French Space Agency (CNES) and CNP, an investment firm. Our mission is to create innovative space-based solutions to understand and protect our planet and to manage its resources sustainably.

CLS employs, now, 1100 people at our headquarters in Toulouse (France) and in 34 other sites around the world. The company works in five strategic markets:

- sustainable fisheries management,
- environmental monitoring,
- maritime surveillance,
- mobility,
- and energies & infrastructures.

CLS processes data from almost 200,000 beacons per month (such as drifting buoys, animal tags, VMS beacons, & LRIT tracking) and observes the oceans and inland waters (every day more than 20 instruments onboard satellites deliver information to CLS on the world's seas and oceans). In addition, we monitor land and sea activities by satellite (nearly 20,000 radar and optical images and several hundred drone flights are processed each year). The CLS Group had a revenue of nearly 193 million Euros in 2024.

Committed to a sustainable planet, every day the company works for Earth, from Space.

[www.cls.fr](http://www.cls.fr)

### 1 CNES

CNES (Centre National d'Études Spatiales) is the government agency responsible for shaping and implementing French space policy in Europe. It designs and puts satellites into orbit and invents the space systems of tomorrow; it promotes the emergence of new services useful in everyday life. Founded in 1961, CNES has developed major space projects, launchers, and satellites and is the industry's natural partner for promoting innovation. The agency has nearly 2,500 employees passionate about space and its infinite, innovative fields of application. They work in five areas: the Ariane project, science, observation, telecommunications, and defense. CNES is a major player in technological innovation, economic development, and France's industrial policy. It also forges scientific partnerships and is involved in many international cooperative endeavors. France, represented by CNES, is one of the main contributors to the European Space Agency (ESA). [www.cnes.fr](http://www.cnes.fr)

### 2 CNP

*CNP is a private investment company founded by Albert Frère and a preeminent player on the European investment market. Backed by a stable family shareholder base, CNP manages a net asset value of €3bn, focusing on long-term value creation by actively supporting the management teams of the companies in which it holds majority or leading stakes. From the start, CNP has sought to foster entrepreneurship: with permanent capital at its disposal, CNP comes in as a trusted partner to both founders and managers, and tailors its commitment with their ambition in mind.* [www.cnp.be](http://www.cnp.be)

## More about Ground Control

Ground Control is a UK- and US-based company specialized in reliable, rugged satellite and hybrid IoT communications solutions for remote and mission-critical operations.

Founded nearly 30 years ago, the company has built a strong reputation for designing and manufacturing compact, low-power satellite IoT devices and two-way messaging trackers, used across industries where connectivity is essential, no matter how remote the location.

At the heart of Ground Control's offering is Cloudloop, a flexible and secure device and subscription management platform that enables seamless provisioning, data routing, and operational visibility across diverse global asset fleets.

With teams based in the UK and California, Ground Control serves a broad range of sectors, including:

- Environmental science & monitoring,
- Fisheries & marine operations,
- Utilities & smart grid,
- Renewable energy infrastructure,
- Disaster response & early warning systems,
- Agriculture & precision farming,
- Defense & humanitarian logistics.

Ground Control's devices and platforms are used by governments, NGOs, research institutes, and industrial operators worldwide to enable data-driven decision-making, monitor assets in real time, and ensure business continuity in challenging environments.

Now part of the CLS Group, Ground Control continues to develop robust, field-proven technology while benefiting from the global reach, environmental mission, and scientific legacy of its new parent company.

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