

CLS acquires SIRS and stakes out a position in the field of satellite observation and monitoring of continental land masses

CLS, the French satellite services provider, has announced the acquisition of SIRS (*Systèmes d'Information à Référence Spatiale* [Information systems for space-related purposes]), a French company founded in 1989, specialising in the production of geographical data from optical or aerial satellite images. CLS is a subsidiary of CNES (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales), Ardian (the independent private investment company) and IFREMER (Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer). Thanks to this acquisition, CLS – which already specialises in environmental monitoring – has further broadened its service offer and is now able to provide customers with enhanced solutions in the field of continental monitoring. Through its 25 offices and subsidiaries, CLS will consolidate its offer in Europe and develop its activity around the world with new services such as support for agriculture, regional planning, sustainable forest management, water resource management, and emergency mapping (in the event of flooding, forest fires, volcanic eruptions, etc.). With the acquisition of SIRS, CLS consolidates its position as an international provider of satellite services for the protection of the environment.

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CLS – Collecte Localisation Satellites

CLS, a subsidiary of CNES¹, ARDIAN² and IFREMER³, is an international company that has been a pioneer in Earth observation and surveillance solutions since 1986.

Its mission is to design and deploy innovative space-based solutions to understand and protect our planet, and to manage its resources sustainably.

CLS employs 650 employees, engineers, developers and oceanographers at its headquarters in Toulouse and in its 25 sites around the world.



The company works in 6 strategic sectors of activity:

- **environmental monitoring;** drawing on 30 years of close cooperation with scientists in charge of studying and protecting our planet, CLS has developed an integrated range of solutions for the studying animals, the ocean, inland waters, coastal areas, ice, and the climate.
- **sustainable fisheries management;** CLS works with the fishing sector to ensure the responsible management of fish stocks, to combat illegal fishing and aquaculture, to implement sustainable fishing plans and to support traditional and national fisheries.
- CLS also works in the fields of **maritime safety, fleet management, energy & mining, and space & ground systems.**

In particular, the company provides satellite services based on the location and collection of environmental data (80,000 transmitters processed each month, drifting buoys, animals, fishing and merchant fleets, etc.), the observation of oceans and inland waters (more than 20 instruments carried onboard satellites deliver daily information to CLS concerning the seas, oceans and rivers around the world), and the monitoring of land and sea activities (nearly 10,000 radar images are processed by CLS each year).

SIRS – Systèmes d’Information à Référence Spatiale (Information systems for space-related purposes)

SIRS is one of Europe's leading specialists in the production of geographic data from optical satellite images, such as those from the European Copernicus programme and its Sentinel-2 constellation.

Created in 1989 by its current director Jean-Paul Gachelin, SIRS has extensive expertise in the field of optical and aerial satellite images. As a leading expert in its field, the company's geographers, geologists, urban planners, agronomists, foresters, ecologists and mathematicians are all trained in the interpretation of optical images. They deliver an objective view of the state of the continent at any given time to the people responsible for managing our regions. This precise knowledge of how the land is used and the availability of natural resources provides key data for deciding on the appropriate policies to be implemented in order to protect the environment.

SIRS already has many references in the fields of:



- **Sustainable forest management:** the mapping of forests in several countries in Sub-Saharan Africa ;



- **Agriculture:** with satellite support provided for monitoring the application of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), SIRS provides administrations with maps concerning the occupation/use of farm land, and support for verifying declarations concerning farmed areas in France; this is vital information for the allocation of subsidies;



- **Hydrology:** SIRS provides water authorities and companies with maps of the hydrographic networks, which are used for the real-time management of rivers. In the event of flooding, SIRS can program the acquisition and processing of satellite images to establish the precise impact of such weather events. This information is useful for sizing and organizing emergency services;



- **Urban development:** How do you decide on the size of sewerage networks for cities in the future, or anticipate needs in terms of parking and other infrastructures? SIRS supports local authorities in transforming their cities into smart cities and helps regional governments develop a more responsive management approach. Thanks to the dynamic mapping of spaces (on an annual basis rather than every ten years or more, as in the past), the management of urban development and the related infrastructures is based on real knowledge of the ground.

A strategic partnership

Christophe Vassal, Chairman of the CLS Management Board: “The future services will benefit from the synergy between CLS and SIRS and we expect them to be a great success. We have extremely complementary products, solutions and services. CLS already provides its customers with 30 years of experience in the field of environmental monitoring. SIRS complements CLS's offer of oceanographic services with continental solutions and with its expertise in the field of optical satellite data.” Jean-Paul Gachelin, Chairman and founder of SIRS: “This merger is a great opportunity for SIRS. Joining the CLS Group should boost our growth. CLS will help us develop our services abroad through its network of 25 offices and subsidiaries around the world. All the SIRS employees are pleased to be joining CLS. The Group shares our values and we have the same goal, which is to improve our understanding and management of the environment in order to make Earth a sustainable planet.” The CLS Group had a turnover of nearly €115 million in 2016 and forecasts revenues of more than €125 million in 2017. In recent years, the group has experienced strong growth and set ambitious targets thanks to new markets.

ABOUT CNES

As a State-owned industrial and commercial undertaking, the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) is the government agency responsible for shaping and implementing France's space policy in Europe. Its role is to invent the space systems of the future, bring space technologies to maturity and guarantee France's independent access to space. CNES is a pivotal player in Europe's space programme, and a major source of initiatives and proposals that aim to maintain France and Europe's competitive edge in the world. France's participation in the European Space Agency (ESA) is also led by CNES. It conceives and executes space programmes with its partners in the scientific community and industry, and is closely involved in many international cooperation programmes, the key to any far-reaching space policy. www.cnes.fr

ABOUT ARDIAN

Ardian, founded in 1996 and led by Dominique Senequier, is an independent private investment company with assets of US\$62 billion managed or advised in Europe, North America and Asia. The company, which is majority-owned by its employees, keeps entrepreneurship at its heart and delivers investment performance to its global investors while fuelling growth in economies across the world. Ardian's investment process embodies three values: excellence, loyalty and entrepreneurship.

Ardian maintains a truly global network, with more than 470 employees working in twelve offices in Paris, London, Frankfurt, Milan, Madrid, Zurich, New York, San Francisco, Beijing, Singapore, Jersey and Luxembourg. The company offers its 580 investors a diversified choice of funds covering the full range of asset classes, including Ardian Funds of Funds (primary, early secondary and secondary), Ardian Private Debt, Ardian Buyout (including Ardian Mid Cap Buyout Europe & North America, Ardian Expansion, Ardian Growth, Ardian Co-Investment), Ardian Infrastructure, Ardian Real Estate and Ardian Mandates. www.ardian.com

ABOUT IFREMER

Through its work and expertise, IFREMER contributes to advancing our knowledge of the oceans and their resources, monitoring the marine environment and coasts and fostering the sustainable development of maritime activities. To carry out its missions, IFREMER designs and implements tools for observation, experimentation and monitoring and manages oceanographic databases. It also operates many of the French oceanographic vessels, as well as underwater systems and ocean instruments (seismometers, penetrometer, etc.). Created in 1984, IFREMER is a state-owned public industrial and commercial institute (EPIC), placed under the joint supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research and the [Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy](#). www.ifremer.fr

ABOUT IRD

Created by entrepreneurs in Nord-Pas-de-Calais (France), the IRD (*Institut Régional de Développement*) Group is a shareholder in SIRS. For the last 30 years, the IRD Group has been providing business development support through 4 key activities: capital investment, real estate, company transfers and the search for funding. IRD in figures: 884 companies in its portfolio, a total of 2,545 companies supported, 253 companies supported through capital investment schemes: 57 real estate transactions, 320 company transfers carried out by Nord Transmission (in 30 years), 60 employees, 120 volunteer directors on our investment committees. www.groupeird.fr

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