

• • • • •

# Press Release

20 November 2018

PR182-2018

## **Argos-3 instrument successfully activated on EUMETSAT's Metop-C satellite**

The Argos-3 instrument was successfully activated on the Metop-C satellite from the EUMETSAT control centre on 16 November 2018. The two instrument boxes (the receiver-processor and the transmitter) are both working normally and the first transmitter messages were able to be decoded in the course of the day. The first transmitter spotted by Metop-C was that of a Senegalese fishing boat offshore of Dakar. This kind of tracking will enable authorities to ensure the sustainable management of marine resources.

This is the latest of seven Argos operational instruments in orbit, five of which are third generation, enhancing yet further the Argos constellation for environmental users (biology e.g. wildlife tracking, meteorology, oceanography, the tracking of fishing fleets, commercial vessels and offshore racing etc.) with approximately 18,000 transmitters active each month. With this third Metop satellite and in the run-up to Metop-SG, EUMETSAT (the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites) has confirmed its position as a key partner in the Argos programme, along with its US counterpart NOAA and Indian space agency ISRO.

Metop is a family of three meteorological satellites developed by EUMETSAT in cooperation with ESA, which are used to help improve meteorological predictions and global climate monitoring. Metop-C provides global meteorology, atmospheric composition, ocean and landmass observation. The satellite has a payload of 11 cutting-edge measuring instruments.

Developed by CNES in partnership with NASA and NOAA, Argos is a satellite-based location and data collection system that will be operated by Kinéis and marketed by CLS from 2019. Metop-C will enable Kinéis to develop location and data collection applications. The Kinéis constellation will be launched in 2021, with the launch of 20 nanosatellites developed with the support of CNES. The constellation will carry new-generation Argos payloads dedicated to the Internet of Things.

### About CNES

CNES (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales) is the government agency responsible for shaping France's space policy and implementing it in Europe. Its task is to conceive and orbit satellites, invent the space systems of the future and nurture new services to aid us in our daily lives. Founded in 1961, it is the initiator of major space projects, launch vehicles and satellites, and the partner of choice for industry fuelling innovation. CNES comprises some 2,500 men and women with a passion for space working to open up new and infinite fields of applications in five core areas of focus: Ariane, science, Earth observation, telecommunications and defence. It is a key player driving technology innovation, economic development and industrial policy for the nation. It also fosters scientific collaborations and has forged numerous international partnerships. France, represented by CNES, is the leading contributor to the European Space Agency (ESA).

### About CLS

CLS, a subsidiary of CNES, ARDIAN (an independent private investment company that manages and/or advises on \$60 billion in assets) and IFREMER, is an international company that has been pioneering the provision of Earth observation and monitoring solutions since 1986. Its vision is to conceive and deploy satellite-based solutions to understand and protect our planet, and manage its resources in a sustainable way. CLS employs 700 people at its headquarters in Toulouse and 26 other sites around the world. The company operates in six strategic business sectors: sustainable fisheries management, environmental monitoring, maritime safety and security, fleet management, energy and mining, and space and ground systems. In particular, CLS provides satellite services based on the location and collection of environmental data (100,000 beacons and terminals processed each month, drifting buoys, animals, fishing and commercial fleets, etc.), observation of the oceans and inland waters (more than 20 instruments on board satellites provide daily information to CLS on the world's seas and oceans), and monitoring of land and maritime activities (CLS processes nearly 10,000 radar images every year). The CLS Group achieved a turnover of more than €122 million in 2017, and plans to increase it to nearly €135 million in 2018. The Group has been growing strongly in recent years and has set itself ambitious objectives by breaking into new markets.

Press contact: Amélie Proust Albrand – +33 (0)6 62 80 45 92 – [aproust@cls.fr](mailto:aproust@cls.fr) – [www.cls.fr](http://www.cls.fr)

### About EUMETSAT

The European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites is an intergovernmental organisation based in Darmstadt, Germany, currently with 30 Member States (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom). EUMETSAT operates the geostationary satellites Meteosat -9, -10 and -11 over Europe and Africa, and Meteosat-8 over the Indian Ocean. EUMETSAT operates two Metop polar-orbiting satellites as part of the Initial Joint Polar System (IJPS) shared with the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Metop-C is the third. EUMETSAT is also a partner in the cooperative sea level monitoring Jason missions (Jason-2, Jason-3 and Jason-CS/Sentinel-6) involving Europe and the United States. The data and products from EUMETSAT's satellites are vital to weather forecasting and make a significant contribution to the monitoring of environment and climate change. The European Union has entrusted EUMETSAT with exploiting the four Sentinel missions of the Copernicus space component dedicated to the monitoring of atmosphere, ocean and climate on its behalf. EUMETSAT carries out these tasks in cooperation with ESA and already exploits the Sentinel-3 marine mission. EUMETSAT has established cooperation with operators of Earth Observation satellites from Europe and China, India, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States.

## CONTACTS

**Pascale Bresson** Press Officer  
**Raphaël Sart** Press Officer  
**Sébastien Martignac** Press Officer

Tel: +33 (0)1 44 76 75 39 [pascale.bresson@cnes.fr](mailto:pascale.bresson@cnes.fr)  
 Tel: +33 (0)1 44 76 74 51 [raphael.sart@cnes.fr](mailto:raphael.sart@cnes.fr)  
 Tel: +33 (0)1 44 76 78 35 [sebastien.martignac@cnes.fr](mailto:sebastien.martignac@cnes.fr)

**presse.cnes.fr**