

It was with the aim of strengthening its commitment to the space sector within the Community of Ariane Cities (CVA) that "Mulhouse Alsace Agglomération" (m2A), the grouping of 32 municipalities of the Mulhouse region, applied to assume the 2013 CVA presidency.

We are greatly honoured to hold that presidency this year and I would like to thank the Members of the CVA Council of Mayors for placing their trust in us.

Our objective throughout our presidency will be to bring space and the general public closer together.

As placing our citizens at the centre of our projects is an important component of the policy we apply on a daily basis, this made the theme of "Citizens and Space" for our year's presidency a natural choice. Priority will be given to events and activities targeting the general public, with the aim of enhancing awareness of space issues.

Beyond the dream that involvement with space represents for so many, we wish to increase public awareness of the tremendous importance of the space sector as a generator of economic development and future prosperity— notably through the decisions on the evolution of European launchers taken at ESA's ministerial Council in November 2012 -and of its cross-border dimension, which makes it a wonderful example of European cooperation, as is so well illustrated by the CVA.

Clemessy has been our partner in this exciting venture for a number of years. Established in 1908, and present in French Guiana since 1965, the firm specialises in electrical engineering and is one of the flagships of our region. Its collaboration with many of the European space sector's main players is testament to its proven expertise and know-how.

Our goal has been that m2A as a whole, its municipalities, as well as its local partners such as the University of Haute Alsace, the French Education Ministry, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Parc des Expositions exhibition centre, and EuroAirport, should work together on preparing the 2013 presidency. This joint effort has given rise to several projects which we are looking forward to sharing with you in the course of the year.

M2A is delighted to be able to continue demonstrating its interest in space activities and the wonderful innovative, intercultural and intergenerational opportunities they present."

Jean-Marie Bockel
Président de Mulhouse Alsace
Agglomération
Sénateur du Haut-Rhin