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New Space Strategy for Europe

- > In 26th October, the European Commission has issued a new Space Strategy for Europe. This document focuses on four strategic goals that aim to further develop the space economy and the use of space data and products in Europe:
 - The first one aims at maximizing the benefits of space for society and the EU economy. In this scope, the Strategy intends to promote the further use of the flagship programs Galileo/EGNOS and Copernicus, guarantee that space is integrated in sectorial policies (including in autonomous and connected vehicles and drones) and develop the digital society and economy;
 - The second goal is improving competition and innovation also in light of the developments leading to new businesses and opportunities in "New Space", including in the context of the Investment Plan for Europe, which mobilizes investments of at least €315 billion a year in diversified areas. In this scope, the EU intends to invest in R&D, entrepreneurship and start-ups (including by means of promoting space hubs and clusters);
 - Another goal of the Strategy relates to guaranteeing EU's autonomy in accessing and using space, including with relation to launch infrastructures. In this respect, the protection of critical space systems, including from debris, cyber threats and space weather, is also an issue of concern. It is worth noting that the Strategy intends to reinforce the synergies between civil and security areas, including by means of the already long discussed GovSatcom initiative;
 - Finally, the fourth goal aims to strengthen Europe's role as a global actor and promote international cooperation in the space area.
- > The EU is also clear that its relations with ESA remain one of the cornerstones of success. From the document results that cooperation shall be undertaken with a view to potentially improve governance and implement simplification measures in this scope in Europe. In fact and in this sense, on the same day the EU launched the Strategy, both EU and the European Space Agency signed a joint declaration to express their joint vision for an European space policy.
- > It is expected that the Space Strategy for Europe will bring new opportunities for companies in Europe, as well as new benefits for the whole society, whilst at the same time responding to the increasing economic, political and environmental challenges of today.
- > The next steps are not provided in this new Space Strategy for Europe for now but, starting in 2017, the Commission will roll out this strategy and initiate a regular structured dialogue with stakeholders to ensure effective delivery and monitor progress.

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