

Japan-France space companies contract signing ceremony

April 1st, 2026

Opening Remarks by KAZEKI Jun, Director-General of National
Space Policy Secretariat (NSPS), Government of Japan

(Introduction)

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

My name is Jun Kazeki, Director-General of the National Space Policy Secretariat at the Cabinet Office of Japan.

It's a great honor for me to be here today on the occasion of this signing ceremony, which represents concrete progress in cooperation between the Japanese and French space industries. I would like to begin by conveying my profound respect and sincere appreciation to the companies and relevant organizations whose steady and dedicated efforts making today's milestone possible.

I sincerely hope that today's ceremony will mark an important step forward—one that elevates cooperation between our space-related companies to a new stage and leads to even greater progress in the years ahead.

(Japan-France Space Cooperation)

Japan and France have built a truly special partnership in the field of space over many decades.

Since the successful launches of our first satellites—France in 1965 and Japan in 1970—our two nations have steadily deepened this relationship through a combination of healthy competition and close cooperation.

The “Japan-France Comprehensive Dialogue on Space,” which has been held regularly since 2016, has demonstrated the strong commitment of both governments to positioning space as a priority domain of bilateral cooperation. At its fourth session, held this January, we reaffirmed our shared directions for cooperation in the civil, commercial, and security domains, including coordination in multilateral frameworks such as the United Nations and G7.

The space sector has also been highlighted as one of the key cooperation areas during President Macron's visit to Japan. At yesterday's meeting of 11th Japan-France Joint Committee on Science and Technology Cooperation, as well as at a meeting held earlier today between Ms. Onoda, Minister of State for Space Policy, and Minister Baptiste, both sides welcomed the steady progress of Japan-France space cooperation and agreed on the importance of further deepening our collaboration.

At the agency level, JAXA and CNES continue to serve as the core of our cooperation, working together across a wide range of areas—from space exploration and science, space transportation, earth observation, and space sustainability. This year, we look forward to the launch of the MMX mission aboard Japan's H3 rocket, as well as the flight tests of the CALLISTO in French Guiana.

In addition, cooperation in the increasingly important areas of space situational awareness and space security continues to make steady progress through practical collaboration, including exercises and information sharing.

(Importance of Japan-France Industrial Cooperation)

Looking ahead, industrial cooperation between Japan and France is more important than ever.

There are many promising areas for collaboration between our industries, and the complementary strengths of our two countries create significant opportunities for joint development, innovation, and market expansion.

I strongly hope that the cooperation among the companies from both countries present here today will continue to develop steadily and will contribute to the further expansion of space development and industrial cooperation between Japan and France.

At the same time, as space becomes increasingly contested and congested, international cooperation to ensure space security and sustainability has become indispensable. By aligning our policy frameworks and industrial capabilities, we can ensure a safe and stable use of outer space for future generations.

(Closing)

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that the future of space exploration and utilization depends on strong international partnerships.

The bonds between Japan and France—and between Japan and Europe—are built on trust, technological excellence, and a shared vision for the future.

Through multi-layered cooperation that extends beyond governments and agencies to include industry and academia, I firmly believe that Japan and France can continue, together, to push the boundaries of what is possible in space.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

(End)