



Hellenic Space Agency

H.S.A. S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

The Hellenic Space Agency (HSA) and the « United Kingdom Space Agency », have signed a memorandum of understanding, the purpose of which is to set up the terms and conditions of a favorable framework for the conduct and the implementation of cooperative activities between the two organizations in the space sector. These actions include the exchange of staff and scientists between the two organizations, the joint organization of space events and seminars and the cooperation in international and national space activities.

The agreement, signed by UKSA's CEO Mr Graham Turnock and HSA's Chairman, Mr Christodoulos Protopapas, on Friday 21 December 2018, will focus on cooperation activities in the following areas:

- Space sciences & space education
- Exchange of views on space policy, law and regulation;
- Human capital development in the space field and related areas;
- Space applications
- Space research and technology

It is noted that both HSA and UKSA have been ordered by the Hellenic Republic and the United Kingdom respectively to promote space and technology and to encourage new research activities.

The CEO of UKSA stated: "We would like to say "Thank you very much" to our colleagues of the HSA for hosting us today. I think it's really a wonderful occasion to sign this Memorandum of Understanding. UKSA and HSA have a lot in common. We are both new space agencies, we are both very focused on the uses of space to benefit civil society and the economy and we both want to see us harness the potential of the new commercial space world to the maximum possible extent and I think this Memorandum of Understanding today establishes a very strong basis for us to work together in going forward."

The Chairman of the Hellenic Space Agency stated : " This cooperation includes the Academia, the Industry, as well as the space applications for the benefit of citizens of both countries. It is the second Memorandum of Understanding, that has been signed in Greece between the HSA and a second country, the UK. France was the first.



And we would like to pass the message that despite any differences between the EU and the UK, for us the United Kingdom is a valuable partner in the space sector, in favor of European people, and the people of both collaborating countries. We are both new space agencies and, as stated before by Mr Graham, we have mainly focused on the promotion of the space industry and the development of the Greek Space Industry and sharing of knowledge between the Space Industries of both countries. Specifically in Maritime applications which is the new trend of space applications. Especially with Internet of Things and autonomous ships that we want to begin applying in the Industry. Space will play a crucial role in the sector".

The Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media, Mr Lefteris Kretsos stated that: " Greece has approximately 45 companies in the field of space industry, with an exceptional financial activity, approximately €200M per annum. Now Greece has its own Space Agency. This gives the country the opportunity to collaborate with international Space Agencies, such as the UKSA and therefore this gives new foresight for the development of the Space Industry and the improvement of citizens' everyday life".

The UK Ambassador, Ms Kate Smith noted: " I would like to express my approval of the signing of the MoU, which will establish a new period of cooperation between our two countries in the space sector, which is a success story in Britain, with very specialized and innovative personnel, in both Universities and Businesses. I also believe that by signing this MoU we may share knowledge, ability and success of businesses in both countries. As far as I know, there are very capable companies in Greece, involved in the space sector. Congratulations to all".

The Secretary General of Telecommunications and Post, Mr Vasilis Maglaras underlined that:" The establishment of the HSA was a very important initiative of this Government and the Ministry. Today we are witnessing the results of the HSA's work and I believe that many more and more important results shall be harvested shortly. This initiative has attracted the interest from around the Globe and we are very proud of the course it is following. The development of the HSA and its active presence in the Greek space sector is the next step. We, here in Greece, would like to see the Space sector become the leading subject of research and technology and also to develop all necessary technology in favor of the National defense, of the citizens and the community in general".