



CENTRE NATIONAL D'ÉTUDES SPATIALES

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JOINT CNES/REMIFOR/ALCATEL PRESS RELEASE

**EMERGESAT TO PREVIEW AT THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (WSIS) IN
TUNIS (TUNISIA) - 15-19 NOVEMBER
"France" Pavilion (stand n°2200 - ICT 4 All)
under the theme "Managing emergencies and international crises"**

CNES, Alcatel Alenia Space and REMIFOR (Réseau Euro-Méditerranéen d'Information et de Formation à la Gestion des Risques), an organization that specializes in providing risk management information and training, will be on the France Pavilion at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunis from 15 to 19 November. The main attraction will be Emergesat, an autonomous French tool to support communications for rapid-response humanitarian missions.

Working under the direction of Nicole Guedj, the French President's special attaché with responsibility for developing innovative technologies, to aid coordination and boost effectiveness of humanitarian missions, CNES, REMIFOR and Alcatel Alenia Space have joined forces to design a support tool for managing response to natural and man-made disasters, transport disasters (air, rail, road and maritime disasters), health disasters such as SRAS and bird flu, and terrorist attacks.

Called Emergesat, this tool is a humanitarian communications container that can be airlifted by aircraft or helicopter to a disaster zone in less than 24 hours.

Once on site, Emergesat uses satellite telecommunications, imagery and navigation to deliver a common, comprehensive picture of a crisis, aiding coordination of international rescue teams, NGOs and forces where terrestrial networks are lacking or out of action.

**Emergesat will be presented to the international community
at the France Pavilion (ICT 4 All – 2200) during WSIS, with demonstrations on
Wednesday 16 November at 3.30 p.m.
Thursday 17 November at 2.30 p.m.**

Emergesat is a tool to serve society proposed by France that is open to partners and cooperation initiatives. Designed to perform multiple tasks, it goes beyond the technology challenges posed by emergency management to address the full spectrum of complex human factors involved. True to its heritage and vocation, France is focusing efforts in this area and is promoting through Emergesat a federating initiative calling for close cooperation to ensure broad uptake and implementation across the globe.

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