

## EC JOINT RESEARCH CENTER TO PARTICIPATE IN WORLD SPACE CONGRESS

The European Community's Joint Research Center will send top officials and a major exhibition to the World Space Congress, August 28-September 5 in Washington, which marks International Space Year and celebrates the past, present, and future of space exploration and cooperation.

Attending the Congress will be Jean-Pierre Contzen, Director-General of the Joint Research Center (JRC) and Raymond Klersy, Director of the JRC's Institute for Remote Sensing Applications.

At 3.00 pm on September 3, Mr. Contzen will give a press conference at the World Space Congress, Room 3, Lower Level, Washington Convention Center, 900 9th Street NW, Washington, DC 20001. Members of the press are invited to attend.

The European Community's exhibition will highlight its Institute for Remote Sensing Applications (IRSA) as a major user of space technology in the service of mankind, particularly in the application of earth observation to world needs. IRSA, the largest institute of its kind in Europe, performs research in:

### - Remote Sensing Applied to European Agriculture

A pilot project named MARS (Monitoring Agriculture with Remote Sensing) uses space images intensively: in one of its activities 53 test sites are observed 4 times a year by interpretation of SPOT (a French satellite system for earth observation) or Landsat Thematic Mapper images.

The new reforms of the EC's Common Agricultural Policy will rely on this project in estimating areas under cultivation and in monitoring set-aside. The project also studies vineyards, citrus orchards and olive groves and sends the data to the EC Commission's statistical office, EUROSTAT.

### - Monitoring the Marine Environment

IRSA performs marine studies including the analysis of global change, coastal monitoring, study of the Northwest African Upwelling Area, the establishment of an Ocean Color European Archive Network (OCEAN).

### - Monitoring Tropical Vegetation

In a joint project with the European Space Agency (ESA), IRSA has launched a major operation to monitor forests and biomass burning in the whole tropical orbit. This project called TREES (TRopical Ecosystem Environment observations by Satellite) should be a substantial contribution to the preservation of our ecological system.

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