

25 January 2015

## **World Space Week Association**

### **Theme for 2016**

Last December, Centre national d'études spatiales (CNES) and Google announced a cooperation in the field of Internet.

A fleet of balloons providing an Internet connection to rural, remote and undeserved areas is the goal of Google's ambition Project Loon. CNES is supporting this project with its balloon expertise for which it has acquired international acclaim over the last 50 years.

Despite existing wired, fiber-optic or satellite technologies, two-thirds of the world's population still lives in regions without an Internet connection. Google(x) team decided to launch the Project Loon to try new approaches to Internet access. A fleet of balloons, carried by winds in the atmosphere and undeserved areas down on Earth below.

The balloons would float some 18 to 20 kilometers above the Earth, higher than commercial airlines and powered by solar panels. Using a two-way link, the signals would be transmitted up to the balloon from the ground and relayed to other balloons before being sent back down to the ground, there they would be picked up by outside antennas. The connection speed will be fast enough to stream videos.

Billions of people in developing countries, all around the world, are eager to have an Internet access at a low cost. Considering this project and also geostationary satellites that are also developed, I propose the following theme for 2016:

"Space to reduce the Digital Divide"

or:

"Space for Internet connection"



Michel Laffaiteur  
Vice President

## WSW 2016 Theme Input from Dr. Karl Doetsch

**From:** Karl Doetsch [mailto:doetsch@telus.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2015 10:52 PM  
**To:** World Space Week; Dennis Stone  
**Subject:** Re: Announcement and Board Meeting material  
**Importance:** High

Dennis,

Although I shall be unable to attend the meeting in Vienna, I do have a suggestion for this year's theme "***Migrating into Space***" Many of Earth's essential services are now enabled through the space services of communications, observation and positioning. Much of our understanding of our solar system, our galaxy and the universe is enabled by space observatories and planetary missions, and finally, humans are preparing for long term stays in space for scientific, commercial, security and, eventually, migratory reasons. We are at the start of one of the great migrations of life on Earth that may last thousands of years, but which will undoubtedly enrich and extend life on Earth and beyond. Would it not be wonderful to awaken societies to this reality and great potential through World Space Week?

Karl