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EPIC WORKSHOP 2017

Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnológico Industrial - CDTI
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CDTI WELCOME: INAUGURATION SPEECH OF THE EPIC WORKSHOP 2017 JORGE LOPEZ REIG¹ ON BEHALF OF CDTI

1. Welcome

Very good morning and welcome to CDTI.

First of all, I would like to thank you all of your attendance today with us to the EPIC Workshop 2017 organized by CDTI and the EPIC PSA; and in particular to our special invited guests from the European Commission, the Research European Agency, the European Space Agency, the Space Agencies in Europe.

As you know, we invited you all to this Workshop with the objective to present to the space stakeholders and the space electric propulsion community, the Horizon 2020 Electric Propulsion Strategic Research Cluster activities and to assess the latest space electric propulsion developments in Europe.

2. Role of CDTI in space

As you probably already know, the main role of CDTI, which stands for Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology, is to increase the technology level of the Spanish companies and research organizations, and to this aim, one of the fundamental lines of activities is focused on the management of international programmes, including the ones devoted to space in the European Space Agency and in the European Union Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, the horizon 2020.

Nevertheless, in the recent years and because the increasing interest and investment of the European Union in Space, CDTI has increased its role in space and the nature of its activities with new lines, which I would like to explain briefly:

3. Strategic Research Clusters in the Horizon 2020

Firstly, I would like to talk about the Strategic Research Clusters:

With the Strategic Research Clusters (SRC) the European Commission introduced early in 2014 a new instrument into the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. The idea of the SRCs is to enable the European Commission to

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target mid-term to long-term objectives in their research programmes in a collaborating approach.

Therefore, European Commission decided to introduce two SRCs in its Horizon 2020 Space Work Plan 2013-2014; one devoted to Space Electric Propulsion, and the other one to Space Robotics. The SRCs are implemented through Programme Support Activities or PSAs: the EPIC PSA for the Space Electric Propulsion SRC, and the PERASPERA PSA for the Space Robotics SRC. The coordinator for both PSAs is ESA, but CDTI is participating in both with important roles and technical responsibilities in the same footprint with other European National Agencies as partners in the consortium (ASI, BELSPO, CNES, DLR and UKSA). This participation is going beyond the traditional role of CDTI in Space, creating new capabilities and technology experience in the space electric propulsion and space robotics fields.

The main roles of the PSAs are to elaborate a roadmap and an implementation plan for the whole SRCs, to provide advice to the European Commission for the description of the Operational Grants addressing the different technological challenges, and to assess their results and evolution with respect to the SRC roadmap.

In the EPIC PSA, the main tasks under direct responsibility of CDTI are among others: the direct support to the EC drafting the call texts and technical annexes; the gap analysis between requirements and application domains; and the dissemination and educational activities.

With its participation, CDTI is getting more and more involved in technological activities meanwhile is working for the development of the space electric propulsion in Europe in general, but also in Spain promoting the Spanish participation in the Space horizon 2020 proposals.

4. Space Surveillance and Tracking

Secondly, I also would like to mention briefly the case of the SST programme (Space Surveillance and Tracking). This programme has been launched by the European Union with the objective to build up a European system for the surveillance and tracking in order to protect the satellites in orbit and the Earth and its population below from the risk of the space debris entering into the atmosphere. The system is already providing operational services from July 2016 and their capabilities are continuously under improvement.

SST is the following space flagship project financed by the European Union after the Earth observation satellite service “Copernicus” and the global navigation satellite service “Galileo”.

SST is a completely new approach for the management and development space programmes in Europe relaying on the capabilities of National Agencies. In this case the European Space Agency is not involved because the strategic nature of the Satellite SST system and the dual use of the SST catalogue. This time the European Union investments are channelled through a consortium of the National Agencies with more



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mature capabilities and experience in SST technologies: France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, and Spain with CDTI.

Again, CDTI in SST is participating with important roles and technical responsibilities in the same footprint with other European National Agencies as partners in the consortium (ASI, CNES, DLR and UKSA). Again, this participation is going beyond the traditional role of CDTI in Space, creating new capabilities, technology experience and strategic operational responsibilities in the SST field.

5. Conclusion

To conclude, let me come back to the space electric propulsion and the SRC activities which is today's subject of our EPIC Workshop.

I would like to thank the invited speakers, representing the European space electric propulsion community from industries, satellite operators and research organizations for their availability to present the latest developments in the space electric propulsion technology in Europe. I am convinced that your achievements will clearly prove that the space electric propulsion is a strategic area for Europe in space, and justifies the interest of the European Commission and its support.

From CDTI and the EPIC PSA we offer you all our support and will to cooperate with you in order to improve the European competitiveness of the European industry in space.

Many thanks for your attention and I wish you all a very fruitful Workshop.