

Support for space missions



MEDES is mainly involved in four types of activities:



Since 1999, MEDES has contributed resources to an integrated team at the European Astronaut Centre (EAC) in Cologne, Germany. This team plays a particular role in the medical monitoring of astronauts during spaceflights (especially on board the International Space Station), while also contributing to studies investigating the safety of missions involving European astronauts.

[More information](#)



A team of 8 people provides support for CADMOS, one of ESA's User Support Operation Centres (USOC), for the physiology experiments requested by ESA. This team, which specialises in biomedical experiments, works at the CNES Toulouse Space Centre.

[More information](#)



On several occasions, MEDES has participated in the selection of astronauts: in 1990 on behalf of CNES, and in 1991-1992 on behalf of ESA.

More recently, (2008-2009) MEDES worked together with the German Space Agency (the DLR) to select six European astronauts for the EAC, including a French candidate, Thomas Pesquet.

At both European and international level, the various authorities have recognised the necessity of having a Medical Board to oversee the health of astronauts and to minimise and manage the medical risks related to manned flight. A doctor from MEDES, Dr Bernard Comet, is currently Chairman of the ESA Medical Board.