



ACADÉMIE
DES SCIENCES
INSTITUT DE FRANCE



Leopoldina
Nationale Akademie
der Wissenschaften

A New Horizon: Large Satellite Constellations and the Sustainable Use of Space

Public Panel Discussion

Thursday, 5 November 2026 | 17:30 – 21:00

Embassy of France in Berlin
Wilhelmstraße 69
10117 Berlin



A New Horizon: Large Satellite Constellations and the Sustainable Use of Space

Public panel discussion co-organised by the French and German National Academies of Sciences in collaboration with the Embassy of France in Berlin

Tens of thousands of satellites are transforming our relationship with near-Earth space, promising to fundamentally reshape global communications and Earth observation. Yet this rapid expansion of large satellite constellations in low and medium Earth orbits poses unprecedented challenges for science and the sustainable use of space: optical and radio astronomy face serious disruption, collision risks threaten to render key orbital regions unusable through cascading debris, and the environmental impact on the atmosphere remains poorly understood.

Building on the Science7 process conducted by the G7 National Academies during France's G7 Presidency leading experts from France, Germany and beyond will address scientific opportunities and challenges of the NewSpace era as well as the urgent need for international governance of the Earth's orbit to balance innovation with sustainability.

www.academie-sciences.fr
www.leopoldina.org
www.science-allemanne.fr

Programme

17.30 – 17.45 | Welcome

H. E. François Marie Delattre, *Ambassador of France to Germany*

Bettina Rockenbach ML, *President, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina*

Francis-André Wollman MA, *Vice President for International Relations, Académie des sciences*

17.45 – 18:05 | Thematic Introduction

Karl-Heinz Glaßmeier ML, *TU Braunschweig*

François Baccelli MA, *French National Institute for Research in Computer Science and Control (INRIA)*

18:05 – 18:55 | Panel Discussion incl. Q&A

Panelists:

Sébastien Candel MA, *École Centrale Paris, Past President of the Académie des sciences*

Anke Weidenkaff ML, *TU Darmstadt*

Martin Sweeting, *University of Surrey & Surrey Satellite Technology*

Camilla Colombo, *Politecnico di Milano*

Kai-Uwe Schrogl, *Special Advisor for Political Affairs, European Space Agency*

Moderator:

Janine Fohlmeister, *Leibniz Institute for Astrophysics Potsdam*

18:55 – 19:00 | Closing Remarks

Siegfried Martin-Diaz, *Counsellor for Science and Technology, Embassy of France in Berlin*

19:00 – 21:00 | Reception

MA – Member of Académie des sciences
ML – Member of Leopoldina

In collaboration with



**AMBASSADE
DE FRANCE
EN ALLEMAGNE**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

Service pour la Science
et la Technologie
Abteilung für Wissenschaft
und Technologie

Further information

This event will be held in English. Doors open at 17:00.
Please be early for security check. Valid government-issued
photo ID required. No large bags permitted.

Prior registration is required until 20 October 2026:
<https://tinyurl.com/g7-newhorizon>

Contact

Christian Weidlich, *German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina*
christian.weidlich@leopoldina.org

Manon Eliayan, *Académie des sciences*
manon.eliaian@academie-sciences.fr

**BERLIN
SCIENCE
WEEK**

