



2010 CVA PRESIDENCY

Speech of Mr Alberto Ruiz Gallardon

Mayor of Madrid,

New President of the Community of Ariane Cities (CVA)

The city of Madrid is immensely proud to host the Presidency of the Community of Ariane Cities (CVA) in 2010. Madrid is today a major European city that is home to 3.2 million people, as well as the hub of a metropolitan area with almost 6.5 million people —the largest conurbation in Southern Europe and the largest city in the CVA.

We would like to thank all other CVA cities for their unanimous support of our Presidency, and we will work hard to further raise awareness among citizens of the importance of this sector for the future of our common European cause.

We have prepared a comprehensive and broad programme that involves the numerous social and economic agents that operate in our city, which have also turned our city into Spain's Space capital and one of the leading European *Space Cities*. By joining efforts and working together, we are sending a message of respect and support to this key sector for our city, strengthening the process of consolidation of a real Space cluster in Madrid.

I would like to thank all said agents —including sector institutions, businesses, the Madrid Polytechnic University (UPM), research centres, and all social and economic agents— for their generous, enthusiastic support. For it is precisely their support that enables us to offer our citizens this excellent programme that focuses above all on educating and raising awareness of the Space.

To celebrate this Presidency, we are organizing —along with our CVA industrial partner EADS CASA ESPACIO, the UPM and the Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI)— an International Conference on the Future of Space, with which we seek to reach a milestone toward further boosting the task taken on by Madrid's Presidency.

In addition, with the support of the sector's employers' organization (ProEspacio), the UPM and our aforementioned industrial partner, we are preparing an Inventory of Madrid's Space Resources, which will enable us to discover and raise awareness of Madrid's wealth of space-related resources, and thus to further boost citizen's awareness of the importance of this sector for Madrid.

During our term, we will also endeavour to help strengthen the European Space Programme, with a continental view that focuses on connecting all CVA member cities. We are well aware of the fact that this programme has only been able to move forward, and that it will move even further ahead, thanks to the joint efforts of Europe's institutions, businesses and individuals. Our keen contribution to this task will be the key foundation of our work throughout this year.

Mr Alberto Ruiz-Gallardon
Mayor of Madrid