

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **A new Director for the Observatoire des Sciences de l'Univers at Paris-Saclay University (OSUPS)**

**On 29 October, the Council for the Observatoire des Sciences de l'Univers de l'Université Paris-Saclay (OSUPS), unanimously appointed Alain Abergel, Professor at Paris-Saclay University, as the Observatory's new Director. Taking over from Nabila Aghanim, Research Director at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), he will assume office on 1 January 2021.**

On 29 October 2020, the council members of the Observatoire des Sciences de l'Univers de l'Université Paris-Saclay (Observatory for Earth Sciences and Astronomy at Paris-Saclay University - OSUPS) unanimously appointed Alain Abergel as the Observatory's new Director. The proposal must be approved by a ministerial decree which will be published in the French government's official gazette, the *Journal Officiel*.

Alain Abergel is a Professor at Paris-Saclay University and an Astrophysicist specialised in the Interstellar Medium, carrying out his research at the Institut d'Astrophysique Spatiale (IAS – CNRS/Univ. Paris-Saclay). Head of the University's Physics Department within the Faculty of Sciences from 2011 to 2018, he was also Co-Head of the second year of the "Astronomical and Space-based Systems Engineering" Master's programme from 2000 to 2011. Alain Abergel was also Paris-Saclay University's Deputy Director at the Doctoral School for Astronomy and Astrophysics in the Paris Area from 2016 to 2020.

Created in 2001, the Observatoire des Sciences de l'Univers de l'Université Paris-Saclay (OSUPS) is part of one of the University's constituent institutes. OSUPS currently brings together two joint laboratories, shared between the CNRS and Paris-Saclay University, and the Institut d'Astrophysique Spatiale (IAS) and Géosciences Paris-Saclay (GEOPS). It also includes a joint laboratory for "Astrophysique, Instrumentation et Modélisation" (Astrophysics, Instrumentation and Modelling), shared between the CNRS, the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) and the Université de Paris, which joined OSUPS in 2020.

There are currently 27 Observatories for Earth Sciences and Astronomy in France, all of which are established by a decree issued by the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, upon the proposal of the Board of the French National Institute for Earth Sciences and Astronomy at the CNRS. The Observatories work to continually develop knowledge in the fields of Earth Sciences and Astronomy, providing the scientific community with essential research-related services.

OSUPS oversees numerous official observational programmes throughout France for the development of space and ground-based instruments, sharing collected data and tools with the scientific community. The Observatory is home to four platforms whose missions are officially recognised by French and international organisations: the calibration station and Integrated Data and Operations Centre (IDOC) at the IAS, the AIM integration platform and the PANOPLY analysis platform at GEOPS.

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## ABOUT PARIS-SACLAY UNIVERSITY

*Paris-Saclay University brings together ten constituent faculties and institutes, four Grandes Écoles, the Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques, two associate institutions and shared laboratories with national research organisations.*

*With 48,000 students, 8,100 lecturers and 8,500 administrative and technical staff members, Paris-Saclay University offers a comprehensive and varied range of undergraduate to doctorate-level programmes and engineering degrees, renowned for their quality thanks to the reputation and commitment of the university's academic staff.*

*Located in the south of Paris on vast sites that stretch across Paris, Orsay, Évry and Versailles, Paris-Saclay University benefits from a strategic geographical and socio-economic position that is strengthened by its international visibility. A leading university, Paris-Saclay is recognised for its excellent Mathematics and Physics programmes but also for Biological and Medical Sciences, Agriculture, Engineering, and its extensive Humanities and Social Sciences courses. Close to Paris, Paris-Saclay University is nestled in a protected natural area, at the very heart of a dynamic economic hub.*



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