

# Tribute to Yves Sillard

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Our colleague Yves Sillard, former vice-president of AAE and Commander of the Légion d'honneur, passed away on 12 April at the age of 87. Yves Sillard left his mark on the French history of space, ocean exploration and defence.

Born in Coutances (Manche) in 1936, a graduate of the Ecole Polytechnique and Sup'Aéro, and a weapons engineer, Yves Sillard joined CNES in 1965, where he managed the construction of the Guiana Space Centre.

On his return to mainland France in 1971, Yves Sillard joined ELDO (the European organisation for the construction and launch of spacecraft) as director of the Europa 3 programme, but following the failure of the Europa 2 F11 test in late 1971, ELDO was closed down in 1972.

Yves Sillard returned to CNES in 1973, where he was appointed Head of the Launchers division. He managed the Ariane development programme. He was appointed Director General of CNES in June 1976 and launched a number of new satellite projects. At European level, following the successful qualification of Ariane and the creation of Arianespace in 1980 to operate the launcher commercially, in 1982 he negotiated the launch of the Ariane 4 programme, which would ensure the competitiveness of the Ariane sector for many years to come.

In late 1982, Yves Sillard left CNES to become Chairman of CNEXO, the French National Centre for Ocean Exploitation Studies, and managed its merger with the Institut scientifique et technique des pêches maritimes (ISTPM). This led to the creation of IFREMER, the French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea, which he headed until 1988.

Appointed Délégué général pour l'armement (DGA) in 1989, Yves Sillard put all his energy into defence, in particular with the launch of both national programmes (Rafale) and European cooperation programmes with several partner countries (Horizon frigates, Tiger and NH90 helicopters).

From 1994 to 1997, Yves Sillard headed the consulting firm Défense Conseil International. In 1998, he became NATO's Assistant Secretary General for Scientific Affairs and the Environment, a post he held until his retirement in 2001.

Yves Sillard rendered great service to France and Europe. He leaves us with the memory of an affable man, always very approachable, with whom exchanges were easy, even though his strength of conviction was considerable.