



## Étienne Schneider to Plead in Favour of Multilateral Agreement on Exploration and Use of Space Resources

Luxembourg, April 21, 2017 – During his working visit to Japan from 19 to 21 April 2017, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Economy Étienne Schneider met with Japan’s Minister for Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Toshiei Mizuochi, and Japan’s Minister with responsibility for space policy, Yosuke Tsuruho, to discuss potential cooperation between Japan and the Grand Duchy in the context of the SpaceResources.lu initiative.

During their talks, Étienne Schneider pleaded in favour of a multilateral agreement on exploration and the use of space resources: “Technological progress will provide access to sources of energy and raw materials outside the Earth’s atmosphere, particularly to the resources available on the millions of asteroids moving about in the solar system. To prevent any future colonisation of space by any one world power, the UN’s Outer Space Treaty, signed in 1967, ought to be adapted to present-day reality by laying down clear regulations on the exploration and peaceful exploitation of space resources, and on liability with regard to space debris. With the aim of making progress on a revision at the level of the UN, I want to make a first step towards international consensus by achieving a multilateral agreement signed by all the countries that share the same point of view on the subject. The convergence of interests and the technological synergies among the various countries will make this new economic branch progress in a sustainable and equitable fashion.”

In order to identify potential areas for cooperation between the two countries in terms of the exploration and use of space resources, particularly through synergies in the field of research, Étienne Schneider met with the President of the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), Dr Naoki Okumura, who invited the Grand Duchy to take part in the second International Space Exploration Forum (ISEF2), to be held in Tokyo in March 2018. The Forum, organised by the Japanese Government and JAXA, will bring together ministers and government leaders as well as representatives of universities, research institutions and businesses from all over the world to discuss the opportunities and challenges raised by space exploration.

During his visit to Japan, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Economy also visited the premises of the company [ispace](#), which has a European subsidiary established in the Grand Duchy. As part of the Spaceresources.lu initiative, the Luxembourg Government and

inspace signed a memorandum of understanding in March 2017. In the short term, this partnership aims to use an innovative mass spectrometer, developed by the [Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology \(LIST\)](#), on the surface of the Moon to explore the elemental compositions of lunar ice and regolith.

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