The analysis and understanding of physico-chemical reactions and phenomena in space are essential to allow in the long term the presence of Mankind in space. Micro-gravity sciences, life sciences and condensed-matter physics are the keys to this understanding and give clues on the living conditions in this hostile environment.

CNES remains a major actor providing steady support in this field. It gives its financial and programmatic support in many areas, either by directly financing the French scientific community such as CNRS, universities, INSERM, INRA, CGA, etc.; or through cooperation with its main partners such as the United States, Russia, Japan and China; or as part of the ESA programs.

The years 2008 and 2009 saw the operational start-up of the Columbus module, the ISS ATV cargo, as well as the set-up on the ISS of the instruments DECLIC with NASA and Cardiomex with Roscosmos. The years to come will enable to stay on the same track of excellence with the start of the development phase of the instrument SEVE (experimental cardiovascular follow-up in flight) and the instrument DYNAGRAN (GRANular medium DYNAMics) both in cooperation with China. Let us not forget MTB (Mice Telemetry in Bion) with Russia, new DECLIC inserts with the US as well as many experiments through the ELIPS 3 programs of ESA.

The new approach of the American Administration, even though it does not aim for the Moon in the short term anymore, opens up a new perspective for cooperation with Europe, a cooperation for which France and CNES are getting ready.