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Date: 11th July 2018

Dr. Philippe Brunet

CEOS Chair

Email: philippe.brunet@ec.europa.eu

European Commission

Avenue D'Auderghem 45

1040 Brussels, Belgium

Subject: Application for Membership of CEOS

Dear Dr. Brunet,

I write to you on behalf of the United Arab Emirates Space Agency (UAE SA) and its Chairman, H.E. Dr. Ahmad Belhoul Al Falasi to formally convey the UAE Space Agency's desire to become a member of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS).

I would like to take this opportunity to give you a brief introduction to our agency.

In July 2014, UAE President His Highness Sheik Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan announced a decree to set up a UAE SA that will report directly to the Cabinet and enjoy financial and administrative independence. The UAE SA primary mandates are:

- Develop, organize, support, guide and coordinate the UAE's growing Space sector that contributes to a diversified UAE national economy and which supports sustainable development;
- The development and use of Space Science and Technology with the UAE and provide support and advice in these areas;
- Raise awareness of the importance of the Space Sector and the development of the qualified human resources in the Space field;
- Develop the necessary Space policy and regulation, and support their enforcement;
- Enhancing the UAE's position as global player in aerospace;
- Establish international partnerships in the Space sector, and help support knowledge transfer.

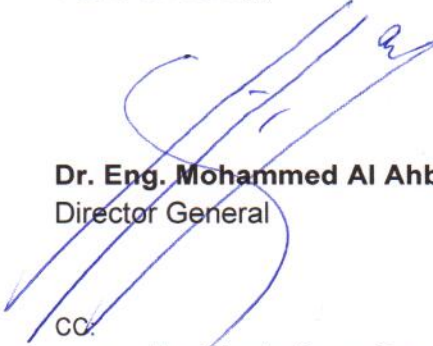
The UAE SA will also be responsible for facilitating, supporting as well as supervising UAE national Space programs, such as the UAE Mission to Mars, which is being carried out by Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) as the prime contractor to the Agency. UAE investments in Space technologies already exceed 4.3 billion Euros over the last fifteen (15) years, including satellite

data communications and television broadcast – YAHSAT, mobile satellite communication – Thuraya Satellites and Earth mapping and observation systems by MBRSC, Dubai-Sat series including Khalifa satellite soon to be launched this year, as well as the Hope Probe to explore Mars which will be launched in mid-2020. It is therefore the responsibility of the UAE SA to facilitate what is necessary for these and future investment in the Space sector to playing their role in achieving its UAE national economic growth targets.

The UAE Space Agency looks forward to the opportunity of contributing to a number of CEOS's working groups. Given current UAE SA missions, the more technology orientated working groups on Calibration and Validation (WGCalVal) of EO data and products and the WG on Information Systems and Services (WGISS) focused on data distribution and access are of potential interest to the UAE SA.

UAE SA has designated Title Space Mission Director, Name Eng. Khaled Al Hashmi as CEOS Principal and Title Space Science Senior Specialist, Name Dr. Fatima AlAydaroods as CEOS Point of Contact. You may contact Dr. Fatima AlAydaroods directly via her email F.AAydaroods@space.gov.ae, should you require any further information.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr. Eng. Mohammed Al Ahabbi
Director General



CC:

- Exe. Director Space Ops.
- Director of Space Missions