



## European Space Agency to use Mersen's technology

**Paris, June 10, 2013** - Mersen (Euronext FR0000039620 – MRN), a global expert in materials and equipment for extreme environments and for the safety and reliability of electrical equipment, has contributed through the expertise of its Boostec subsidiary to Astrium's selection by the European Space Agency (ESA) to build the payload of the satellite that will be used for the Euclid mission.

Astrium will be the prime contractor to build the payload of this program, which aims to study and map the Universe's dark matter and dark energy. After participating in their design, Boostec will provide the mirrors and structure for the large silicon carbide (SiC) telescope.

Silicon carbide is used on account of its high level of rigidity, its low expansion coefficient and high thermal conductivity. It provides exceptional thermomechanical stability that no other industrial material can match. These properties have enabled Mersen to market silicon carbide products in a number of markets, such as pharmaceuticals, equipment for the semiconductor industry and optical and scientific instrumentation, as illustrated by this contract.

Boostec, which was acquired by Mersen in 2010 and has its head office close to Tarbes in France, possesses unique expertise in the manufacture of silicon carbide parts.

Luc Themelin, the Chairman of Mersen's Management Board, commented: *"This success reflects the experience, rigor and professionalism of Mersen's teams. Our Boostec subsidiary is the only company in the world capable of manufacturing silicon carbide components with a diameter of several meters—a crucial feature of space optical instruments. The proximity and first-class cooperation with Astrium's teams have also proven to be key factors."*

The Euclid program will generate sales in excess of €7 million for Boostec over the next three years.

Mersen will attend the 50th Paris Air Show to be held from 17 to 23 June 2013 in Le Bourget (Hall 2B, booth DE16).

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## About Euclid

Euclid is a key mission in the ESA's Cosmic Vision plan. Its goal is to investigate the nature and origins of the hidden universe— dark matter, of which there is five times more than the atom-based matter that we know, and dark energy, which is responsible for the acceleration in cosmic expansion. Scientists believe that this hidden universe accounts for most of the matter in the Universe. Euclid will observe some 40% of the sky, i.e. several hundred million galaxies providing evidence of the 10 billion year history of the cosmos. This three-dimensional map will help scientists to grasp the nature and history of dark energy and dark matter.

The satellite is due to be launched by a Soyuz launcher in 2020 and placed in orbit at the second Lagrange point (L2), from where it will make its observations over a six-year period. The telescope will send the photons it collects to a visible imager (VIS) and a near-infrared spectral-imager (NISIP).

## About Mersen

Global expert in materials and solutions for extreme environments as well as in the safety and reliability of electrical equipment, Mersen designs innovative solutions to address its clients' specific needs to enable them to optimize their manufacturing process in sectors such as energy, transportation, electronics, chemical, pharmaceutical and process industries.

With 6,800 employees in over 40 countries, Mersen achieved consolidated sales of €811 million in 2012.

***The Group is listed on NYSE Euronext Paris – Compartment B***

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