

A 3AF MP Editorial, 1st Published: La Gazette #26

3AF MP

PHILIPPE MAIRET, 3AF MP, OUR FRENCH SISTER SECTION

Let's wish Gerard Depardieu, our talented French actor, good luck with the Russians. After all, his change of citizenship from French to Russian (mostly a search for a reasonable tax rate) does not concern us! Being French, members of an old Gallic culture, we wish him no harm, no sky falling on his head. Speaking of falling skies in Russia, an unforeseen meteor exploded over Chelyabinsk in the southern Urals recently, injuring more than 1,000 people, some seriously.

One can sympathize with the Russians after this 2013 meteorite disaster, since it is the biggest such example since the Tunguska event of 1908, also in Russia. While on the subject of Near-Earth Object (NEO)-Earth impacts, it is worth noting a new discovery described by scientist Andrew Glikson and others ([Telegraph](#), February 2013). He describes an impact zone (shocked terrain) in southern Australia that is about the third biggest in the world. This probable asteroid impact zone is more than three hundred million years old. Contrary to the Chelyabinsk event, the effects of this Australian event were global.

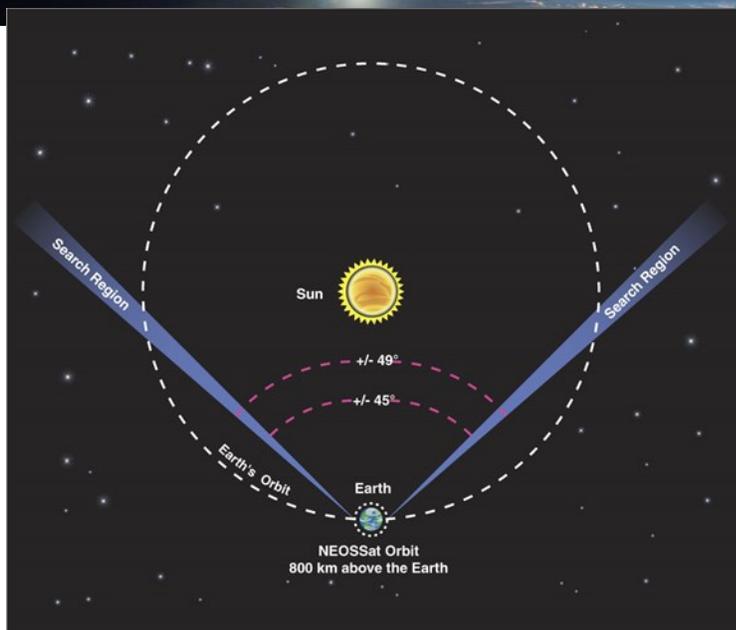
The European Space Agency (ESA) is planning research into ways to better detect such dangers and provide timely warnings. Overseas, others are also planning this kind of research. A new Canadian program is a NEO-hunting satellite. It was placed into orbit with other satellites by an Indian rocket. Some nations have studied deflection and destruction of such NEO-Earth impact threats.



The first test flight of the NASA Orion crew capsule is now planned for 2017 with no crew onboard. The planned launch rocket is the NASA Space Launch System (SLS). This first Orion spacecraft will include an ESA Service Module, a big step in international partnering. Subsequent Orion flights will be crewed. Stay tuned to see how long this ESA-NASA partnership lasts: the longer, the better. Norman Augustine once said (at Rice University in Houston, where the 2011 video remains [online](#)) that international partnerships can be very difficult to manage, but can also bring huge benefits. One of those benefits is cost sharing, no doubt. Another benefit might be increased difficulty in cancellation of a project.

The year 2013 is the 100th anniversary of the Marcel Leyat propeller car, the Hélica. This is now a popular subject for car collectors and those who work in aeronautics. It even appears in the current issue of the magazine *Le Point*.

Leyat's Hélica was a perfect combination of airplane and car. Jean-Luc Chanel is the 3AF MP Chair of our technical committee, "Light Aviation and Derived Machines." He participated in a Leyat-dedicated booth mounted by the association "Friends of the Hélica" at the 2013 Rétromobile event in Paris. He high-



Above: The Near-Earth Space Surveillance (NESS) project uses the Near-Earth Object Surveillance Satellite's (NEOSat's) space telescope to discover asteroids of the inner solar system. NESS is contributing to the international science community's efforts to find and track near-Earth asteroids and comets. Image [credit](#): CSA.



Above: Map showing Chelyabinsk in Russia. Image source: Wikipedia. Image [credit](#): Uwe Dederig.

lighted the features of many early 20th-century cars. From the Chernobyl cloud to the Chelyabinsk meteor, things do not respect international borders. The laws of aerodynamics apply to both airplanes and automobiles. Chanel plans a follow-on to Leyat's work. Chanel is organizing a conference devoted to his Project Leyat, exactly 100 years after Leyat unveiled his 1913 Hélicocycle.



Above: Leyat's 1921 Hélica. Image [source](#): Wikipedia. Image [credit](#): PHGCOM.