

Eric Defer was born in Paris (France) in 1970. He received his Ph.D. degrees in Remote Sensing and Applied Physics from Université Denis Diderot (Paris) in 1999. After working for NCAR (USA), USRA (USA), National Observatory of Athens (Greece), and Observatoire de Paris (France), he was recruited as permanent Research Scientist by CNRS in 2007 first at LERMA (Observatoire de Paris, Paris). Then, in 2015, he joined Laboratoire d'Aérodynamique in Toulouse (France) still as CNRS Research Scientist, where he is currently the head of MECANO team. He is involved in different national and international committees and advisory groups, like the Mission Advisory Group of EUMETSAT Meteosat Third Generation Lightning Imager.

He is author or co-author of more than 40 journal publications and 240 conference contributions. His scientific interests are atmospheric electricity, lightning physics, clouds and rain, instrumentation and retrieval algorithms through ground-, air- and space-based observations and modeling. He is currently the French PI of the lightning instrumentation package of the French-Israeli mission C3IEL. He is the scientific responsible of the INE (Instrument National d'Excellence) LMA SAETTA operated in Corsica (France, in the Northwestern Mediterranean Sea). He was lately the PI of the EXAEDRE project (2016-2021), project dedicated to the study of the electrical activity of Corsica storms and during which he coordinated an airborne field campaign with flights of the French Falcon research aircraft in convective clouds. He is also the PI of the SOLID (Space-based Optical Lightning Detection) project supported by the French space agency CNES (2015-2022).