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April 2026

Launch kit

VA268

Ariane 6

VA268

Amazon Leo LE-02

www.arianespace.com

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MISSION DESCRIPTION

Arianespace's second launch of 2026 will place 32 Amazon Leo satellites in a low Earth orbit (LEO) with the Ariane 6 in its Ariane 64 configuration (the Ariane 6 version with four boosters).

The launcher will be carrying a total payload of approximately 20 tons.

The launch will be carried out from Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana.

DATE AND TIME:

Liftoff is planned on April 30, 2026, within the following launch window:

- 04:08 - 04:57 Washington D.C. time
- 05:08 - 05:57 Kourou time
- 08:08 - 08:57 Universal time (UTC)
- 10:08 - 10:57 Paris/Berlin time
- 17:08 - 17:57 Tokyo time

MISSION DURATION:

The nominal duration of the mission (from liftoff to separation of all the satellites) is: 1 hour and 54 minutes.

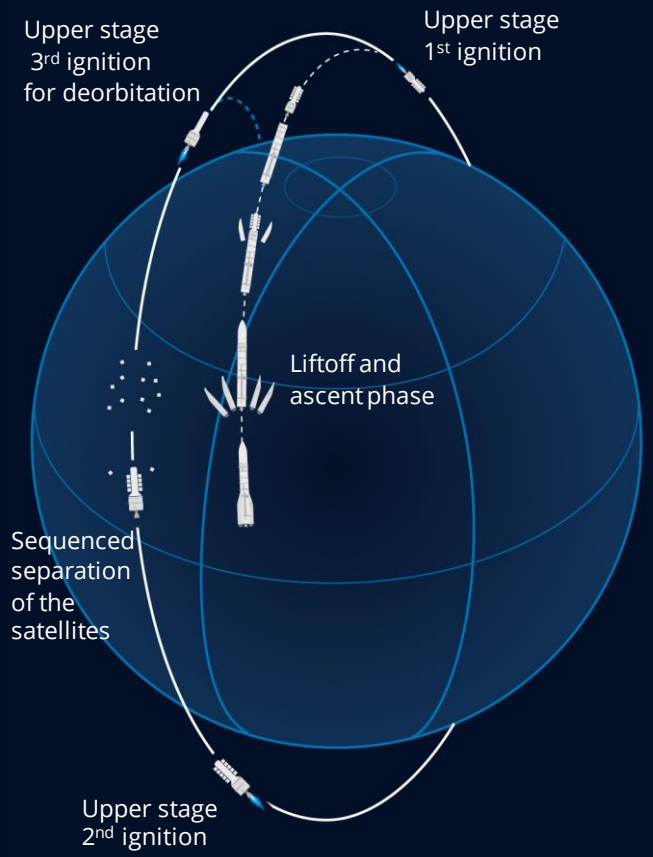
SATELLITES:

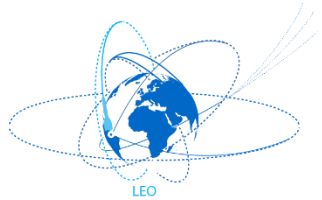
- 32 Amazon Leo satellites (LE-02)
- Customer: Amazon

TARGETED ORBIT:

Low Earth orbit at an altitude of approximately 465 km.

ARIANE 6 LOW EARTH ORBIT (LEO) MISSION PROFILE





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PRESS CONTACTS

Arianespace
Contacts available here:
newsroom.arianespace.com

ArianeGroup
Contacts available here:
press.ariane.group

WATCH THE LAUNCH LIVE

Link to the Road to Space launch show:
youtube.com/@arianespace

AMAZON LEO: HIGH-SPEED CONNECTIVITY BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

DID YOU KNOW?

Mission VA268 is the second in a series of 18 Ariane 6 launches planned servicing the Amazon Leo constellation.

Amazon Leo is Amazon's low Earth orbit satellite network, designed to provide fast, reliable internet to customers and communities beyond the reach of existing networks. To deliver on this mission, Amazon is deploying thousands of satellites linked to a global network of antennas, fiber, and internet connection points on the ground.

Amazon Leo's initial satellite constellation design includes more than 3,000 satellites. Mission VA268, designated LE-02 by Amazon (Leo Europe 2), will add another 32 satellites to the constellation.

SATELLITES	32 Amazon Leo satellites
CUSTOMER	Amazon
MANUFACTURER	Amazon (manufactured in Kirkland, Washington State, U.S.A.)
MISSION	Global connectivity, high-speed broadband
COVERAGE AREA	Global
CONSTELLATION OPERATIONAL ORBIT	Low Earth orbit between 590 and 630 kilometers

Amazon Leo has three main parts: ground infrastructure, satellites, and customer terminals:

-Amazon's ground infrastructure includes gateway antennas that securely send and receive customer data to and from satellites, along with telemetry, tracking, and control (TT&C) antennas that keep the satellites properly operating. Global networking connects those gateway antennas to the internet, public cloud, or private networks.

-The satellites relay data traffic to and from the gateway antennas and customers.

-The customer terminals are the technology that Amazon Leo customers use to receive internet service. These antennas - Leo Nano, Leo Pro, and Leo Ultra - combine antennas and processors into a single, compact system to deliver connectivity.

The VA268 mission in key figures:

- The second Arianespace mission for Amazon Leo (LE-02)
- The second flight for the Ariane 64, the Ariane 6 with four boosters
- The second Ariane 6 flight using the long 20-meter fairing

CONTACTS

Amazon Leo
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Contact (FR): presse@amazon.com
leo.amazon.com

ARIANE 6 LAUNCHER - ARIANE 64 CONFIGURATION

Fairing (long version)

Height: 20 m
Diameter: 5.4 m

Amazon Leo satellites

Heavy Launch Vehicle Adapter

Upper stage

Height: 9 m

Cryogenic Vinci® engine

Thrust: 180 kN

Main stage

Height: 32 m

Booster

Height: 22 m
Diameter: 3.4 m

P120C solid rocket motor

Thrust: 3,700 kN (for each)

Cryogenic Vulcain 2.1® engine

Thrust: 1,370 kN

Liftoff weight: 800 tonnes
Liftoff thrust: 15,000 kN

DID YOU KNOW?

As lead contractor for Ariane 6 development and production, ArianeGroup orchestrates a huge European space industry chain in all aspects from management of launcher upgrades to supply of the flight software for each mission. This collaboration is the heart of Ariane 6's success.

This includes structures and equipment, propulsion systems, integration of the different stages and integration of the launcher at Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana. ArianeGroup coordinates more than 600 industrial partners and suppliers across the thirteen European countries contributing to the programme, including 350 SMEs, mid-sized companies and start-ups, and supports over 13,000 direct and indirect jobs in Europe.

We are continuously improving the competitiveness of the Ariane 6 system, which is designed to be modular, versatile, and scalable.

The Auxiliary Propulsion Unit (APU) is one of the innovations on Ariane 6's upper stage and plays a critical role during this constellation-type mission: it ensures safe separation and spacing of a large number of satellites within a short timeframe. As the satellites are released into orbit, the APU provides a low continuous thrust to maintain the upper stage's trajectory and altitude, ensuring the satellites are safely separated.

The APU includes high-tech hardware in a compact system. Alongside a 3D-printed gas generator, the APU integrates motor pumps, control units, batteries, valves, nozzles, and igniter. Integrated into Ariane 6's upper stage and using liquid hydrogen and oxygen from the stage tanks, it is qualified for several hours of operation with multiple in-flight ignition capabilities.

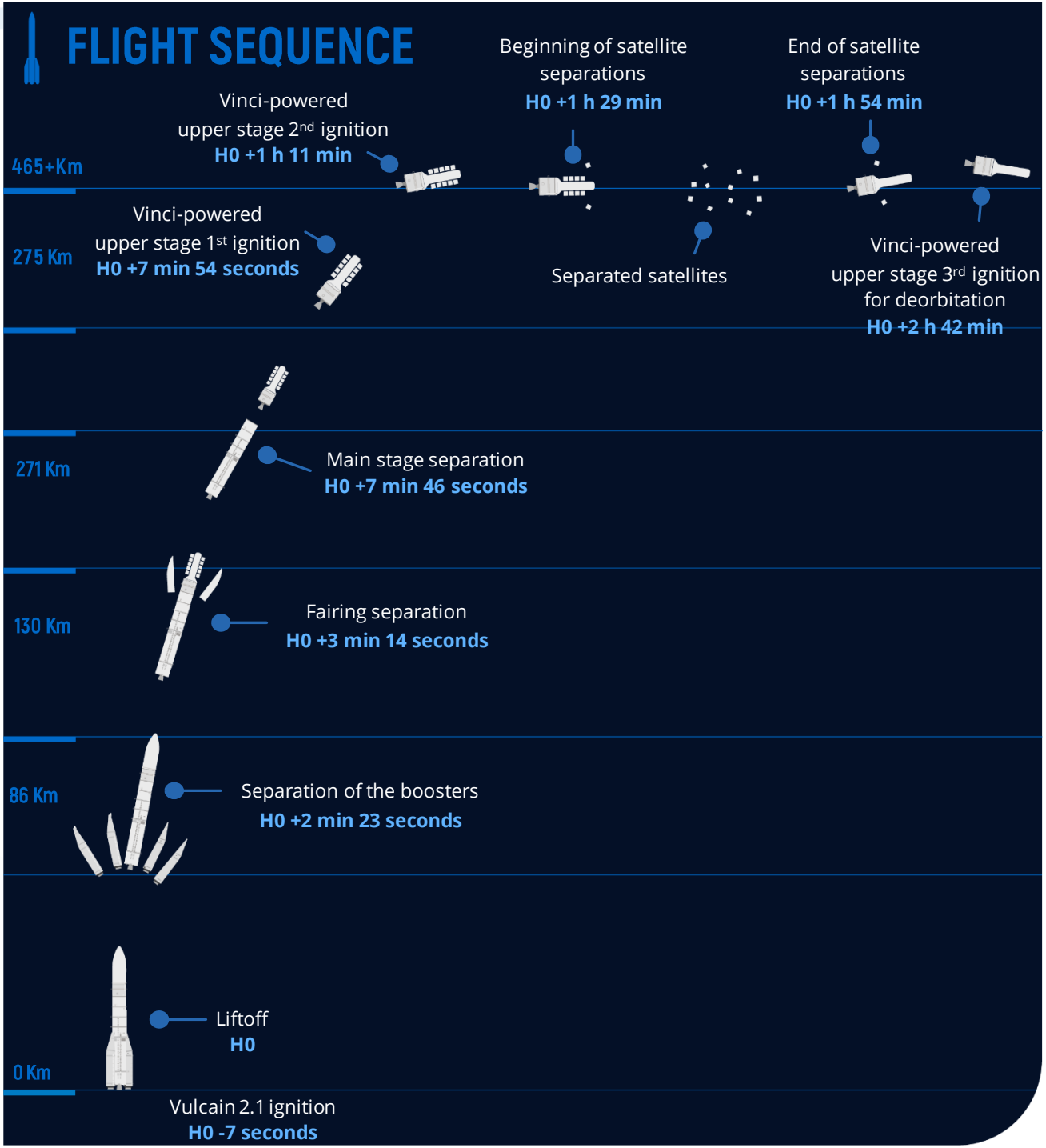
The APU contributes to orbital phases management and keeps propellants settled in micro-gravity. It pressurizes the tanks for reliable Vinci® engine re-ignitions and ensures the stage can safely de-orbit at the end of the mission.

LAUNCH CAMPAIGN

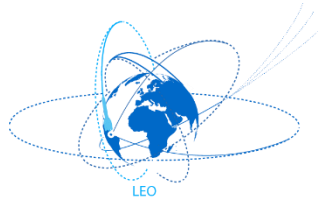
30/04/2026	Final launch countdown. Liftoff.
29/04/2026	SSHEL (Liquid helium subsystem) filling
28/04/2026	Launch Readiness Review (LRR)
24/04/2026	Transfer of satellites under fairing to launch zone (ZL4) and assembly on launcher
22/04/2026	Satellites placed under fairing – encapsulation
20/04/2026	Stack assembly onto launch Vehicle Adapter
14/04/2026	Stack final assembly
08/04/2026 - 09/04/2026	Transfer of central core to launch zone (ZL4) and verticalization Transfer of boosters to ZL4
26/03/2026	Beginning of Launcher Assembly Building phase
25/03/2026	Canopée ship arrives in French Guiana with the Ariane 6 stages
11/03/2026	Start of satellite preparation operations and stack assembly
10/03/2026 - 12/03/2026	Amazon Leo satellites arrive in French Guiana

— Satellite operations — Launcher operations

FLIGHT SEQUENCE



LAUNCH STAKEHOLDERS



ARIANESPACE

From Earth to orbit, Arianespace serves its customers and their ambitions, whether they involve scientific missions to study our planet, facilitate communication and navigation, or support many other applications.

Arianespace designs and deploys space transportation services for all types of satellites, to all orbits, with the capacity to transport any mass, at any time. Arianespace operates the new-generation Ariane 6 launcher, developed by ESA, with ArianeGroup as prime industrial contractor. With over 45 years of experience, Arianespace has launched more than 1,100 satellites, for over 150 institutional and commercial customers worldwide.

Arianespace is headquartered in Les Mureaux, France. Our launch base is at the Guiana Space Center in Kourou, French Guiana, and we have offices in Tokyo, Singapore and Washington, D.C. Arianespace is a subsidiary of ArianeGroup, which holds 100% of its share capital.

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Press contact:
newsroom.arianespace.com

ARIANEGROUP

ArianeGroup is an industrial company delivering critical missions for the space and defence sectors. With 8,700 highly qualified employees in France and Germany, ArianeGroup has unique expertise in access to space, covering the full spectrum of civil and military launch systems, including design, development, manufacturing, integration, flight preparation, operational readiness and end-of-life decommissioning. ArianeGroup is lead contractor for the Ariane 6 European launcher for the European Space Agency (ESA).

ArianeGroup also offers a broad range of space, defence and industrial equipment and services, both individually and together with its subsidiaries Sodern, Pyroalliance, Nuclétudes and APP.

In the field of space launchers, ArianeGroup's subsidiary Arianespace markets and operates Ariane 6, and its subsidiary MaiaSpace develops and markets the reusable launcher Maia.

ArianeGroup, equally owned by Airbus and Safran, posted consolidated revenues of €2.6 billion in 2025.

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ESA

ESA guides the development of Europe's space capabilities and makes sure that space contributes to a safer, more prosperous and sustainable future for its citizens. As an international organisation with 23 Member States, ESA coordinates its members' financial and intellectual resources to undertake ambitious programmes and initiatives that largely surpass the scope of action of a single European state.

ESA oversees the development of Europe's current and future space transportation services and solutions, including Ariane 6, Vega-C, Vega-E, Space Rider, and of technologies for transport in-, to-, and from-space, notably through the Future Launchers Preparatory Programme. On Ariane and Vega, ESA manages the overall programmes while European industry builds the launch vehicles with ArianeGroup (Ariane 6) and Avio (Vega-C and -E) as prime contractors and design authorities. ESA oversaw the programme on behalf of the participating Member States and is launch system architect.

ESA also fosters commercial space transportation services under private lead through initiatives like Boost! and the European Launcher Challenge. ESA Member States fund about two-thirds of the total cost of running and maintaining Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana.

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CNES

CNES (Centre National d'Études Spatiales) is the government agency responsible for shaping France's space policy and implementing it in Europe. Its task is to conceive and orbit satellites, invent the space systems of the future and nurture new services to aid us in our daily lives. Founded in 1961, it is the initiator of major space projects, launch vehicles and satellites, and the partner of choice for industry fuelling innovation. CNES comprises some 2,400 men and women with a passion for space working to open up new and infinite fields of applications in five core areas of focus: Ariane, science, Earth observation, telecommunications and defence.

The agency is a key player driving technology innovation, economic development and industrial policy for the nation. It also fosters scientific collaborations and has forged numerous international partnerships. France, represented by CNES, is one of the leading contributors to the European Space Agency (ESA).

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