

August 2026
Launch kit
VA270



Ariane 6

VA270
MTG-I2



www.arianespace.com



www.ariane.group

MISSION DESCRIPTION

Arianespace's fourth launch of 2026 will place the MTG-I2 satellite in geostationary transfer orbit (GTO), with the Ariane 6 in its Ariane 62 configuration and two P120C powered boosters.

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



DATE AND TIME:

Liftoff is planned on August 27, 2026, within the following launch window:

- 16:10 - 18:40 Washington D.C. time
- 17:10 - 19:40 Kourou time
- 20:10 - 22:40 Universal time (UTC)
- 22:10 - 00:40 Paris/Berlin time
- 05:10 - 07:40 Tokyo time, on August 28, 2026



SATELLITE:

- MTG-I2 (Meteosat Third Generation Imager-2)
- Customer: EUMETSAT
- Satellite development: ESA
- Prime contractor: Thales Alenia Space



MISSION DURATION:

The nominal duration of the mission (from liftoff to separation of the satellite) is: 36 minutes



TARGETED ORBIT:

- Geostationary transfer orbit (GTO)
- Perigee altitude: 250 km
 - Apogee altitude: 35666 km
 - Inclination: 6°



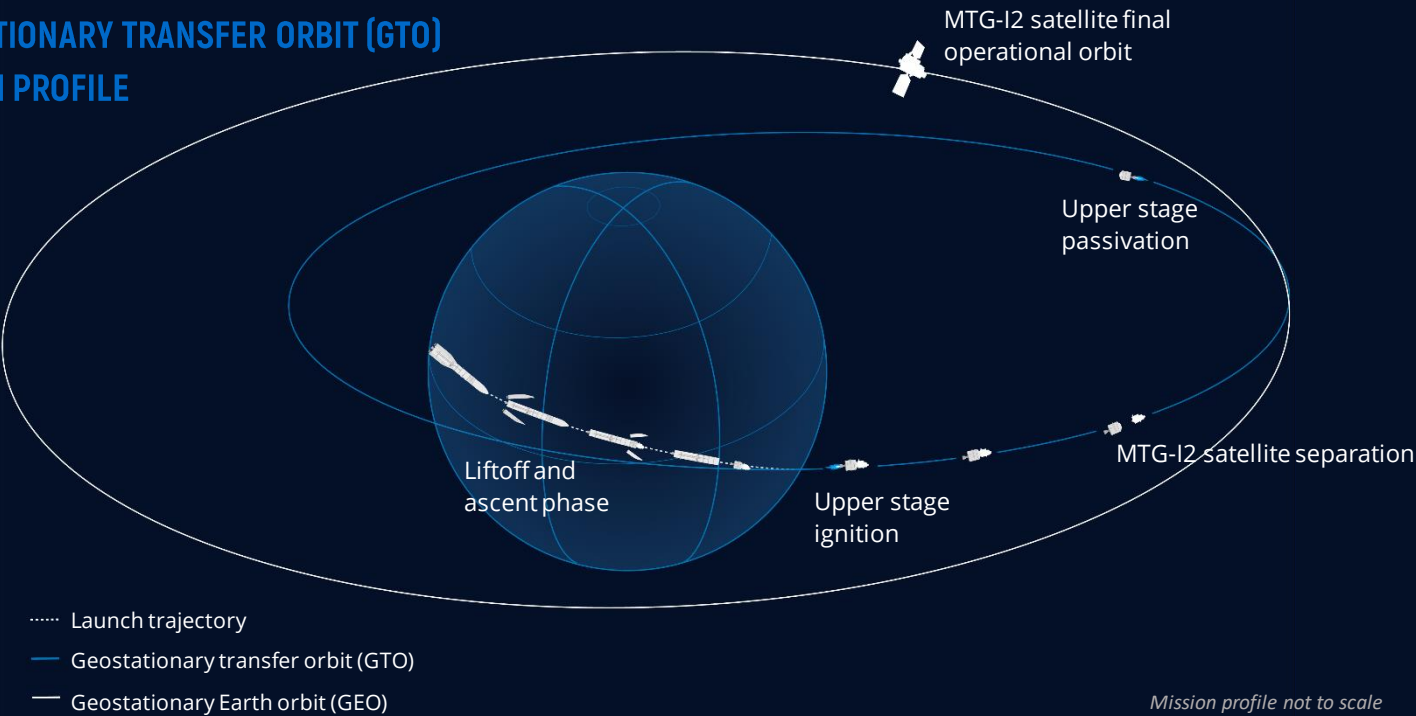
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ARIANE 6

GEOSTATIONARY TRANSFER ORBIT (GTO)

MISSION PROFILE



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:
arianespace.com/road-to-space

MTG-I2: REVOLUTIONISING WEATHER FORECASTING AND CLIMATE MONITORING



DID YOU KNOW?

The passenger on board Ariane 6 flight VA270 is the MTG-I2 satellite, the 2nd Meteosat Third Generation (MTG) Imager satellite.

The MTG system is part of a new generation of geostationary satellites providing imagery for the early detection of fast-developing severe storms, weather forecasting and climate monitoring.

The combination of MTG's innovative instruments and their increased resolution and sensitivity offer significant enhancement on Meteosat Second Generation, particularly in the challenging task of early detection and prediction of rapidly evolving and potentially dangerous weather events such as severe thunderstorms.

The MTG system is the most complex and innovative meteorological geostationary system ever built. Its fleet will comprise two imaging satellites (MTG-I1 and MTG-I2) and one sounding satellite (MTG-S) in orbit 36,000km above the Earth. MTG-I2 therefore completes the first fleet of MTG satellites.

SATELLITE	MTG-I2 (Meteosat Third Generation Imager-2)
CUSTOMER	EUMETSAT
SATELLITE DEVELOPMENT	European Space Agency (ESA)
MANUFACTURER	Thales Alenia Space
MISSION	Meteorology - providing enhanced imagery for the early detection of fast-developing severe storms, weather forecasting and climate monitoring
OPERATIONAL ORBIT	36,000 km above the equator – Geostationary orbit
MASS AT LAUNCH	3,800 kg fully fuelled (2 tons of propellant)
DIMENSIONS	2.3 x 2.8 x 5.2 m (stowed configuration for launch)
COVERAGE AREA	Europe and Northern Africa
LIFETIME	Minimum design life of 8.5 years with enough fuel to potentially last 10.7 years



Artistic view MTG @Thales Alenia Space_E.Briot

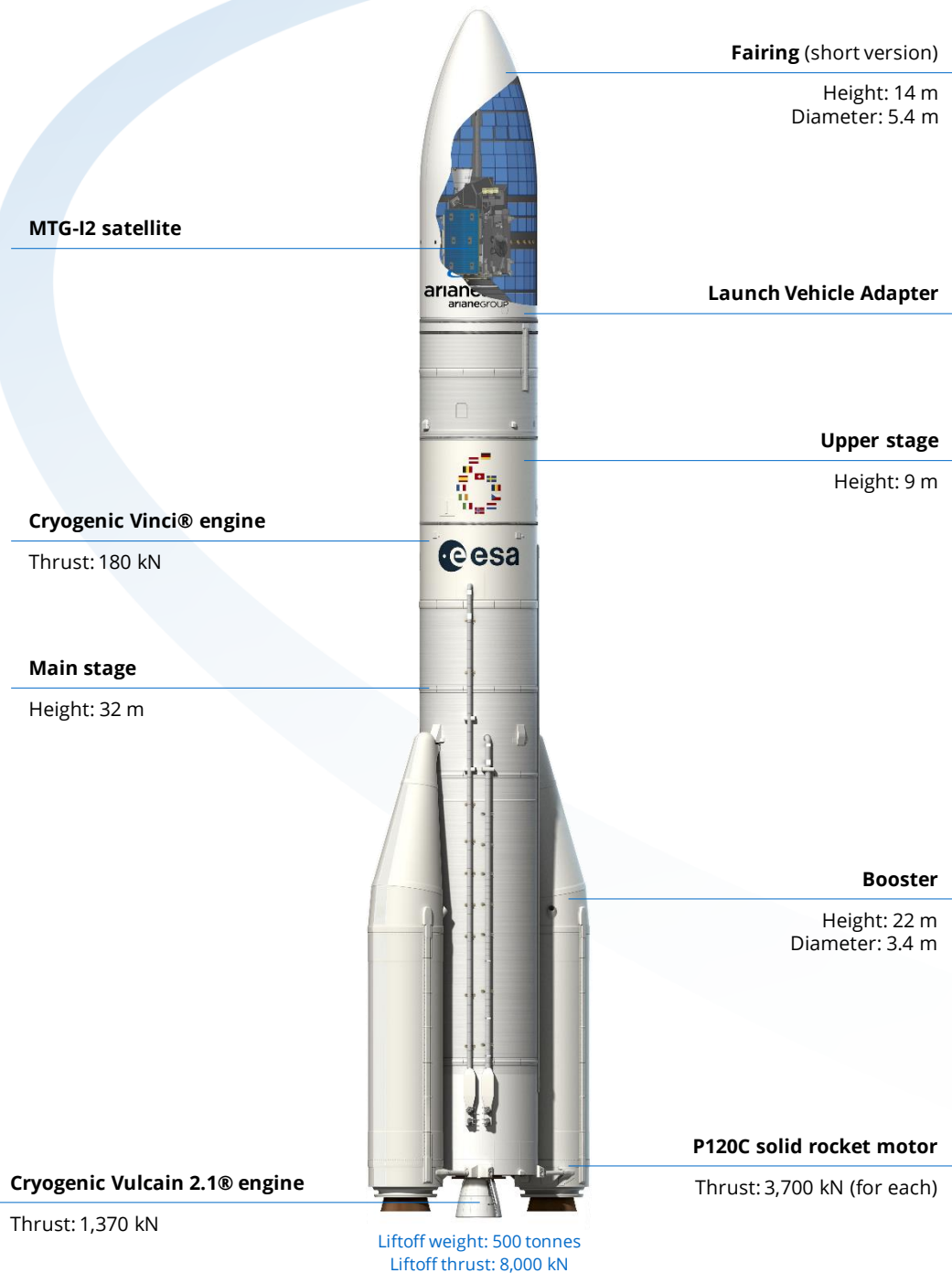
The MTG-I2 satellite will provide a rapid scan service over Europe every 2.5 minutes, working together with Meteosat-12 (MTG-I1), which was successfully launched by Ariane 5 flight VA259 in December 2022, ensuring the continuity and resilience of Europe's operational meteorological services.

The MTG system will help meteorologists meet one of their main challenges – the rapid detection and forecasting of severe weather events – so that timely warnings can be given to citizens, civil authorities and first responders. The data gathered will have a wide range of uses, from enabling aircraft to avoid storms and for earlier alerts of flooding, through to more precise monitoring of fires and fog. The Lightning Imager will continuously map lightning flashes on top of clouds, between clouds and from clouds to the ground. Higher resolution imagery will be available at a pace more quickly, in a significant advance for forecasting of rapidly developing severe weather events.

MTG satellites have been developed by ESA based on the users' requirement collected by EUMETSAT, and built by a large consortium of European industries led by prime contractor Thales Alenia Space with main partners OHB System in Germany and Leonardo in Italy. EUMETSAT develops the ground infrastructure to control and communicate with the satellites, operates them throughout their lifetime, and disseminates the scientific data to users worldwide.

- MTG-I2 will be the 16th EUMETSAT satellite to be launched by Arianespace;
- VA270 will be Ariane 6's first mission to geostationary transfer orbit.

ARIANE 6 LAUNCHER – ARIANE 62 CONFIGURATION



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.

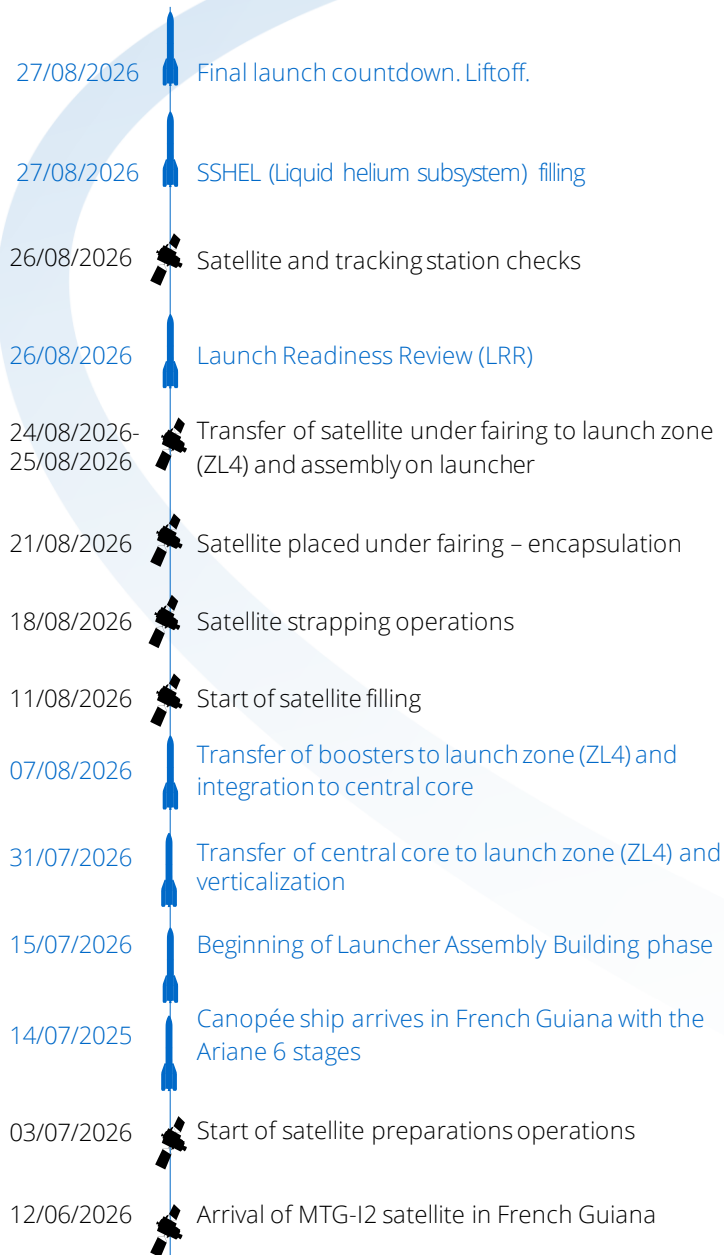
This includes structures and equipment, propulsion systems, integration of the different stages and integration of the launcher at Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana. ArianeGroup coordinates more than 600 industrial partners and suppliers across the thirteen European countries contributing to the programme, 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.

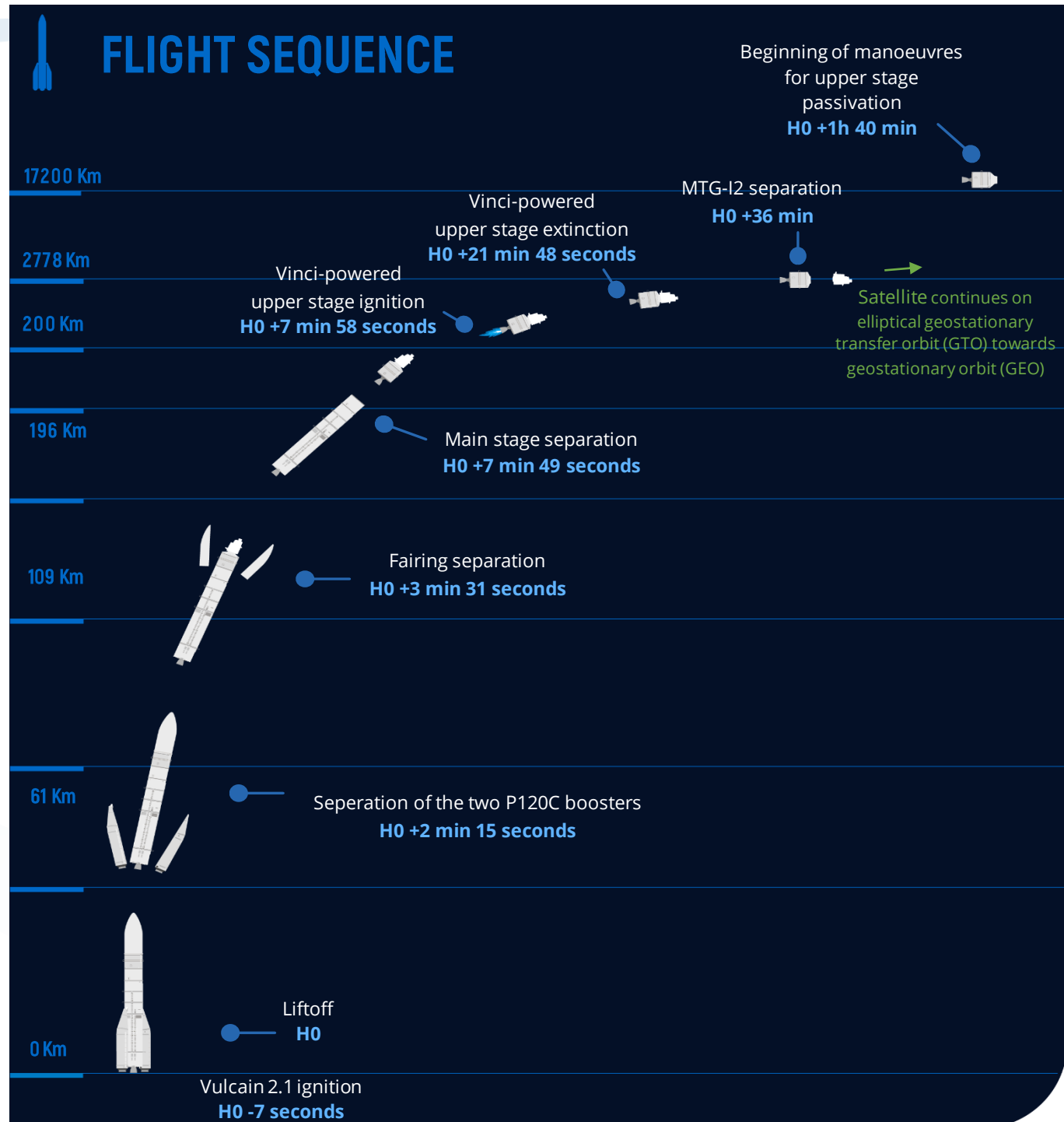
ARIANE 6 FLIGHT VA270 AT A GLANCE:

- 9th Ariane 6 launch and 6th launch of Ariane 62
- 4th Ariane 6 launch in 2026
- 1st Ariane 6 mission to geostationary transfer orbit

LAUNCH CAMPAIGN



 — Satellite operations
  — Launcher operations



Flight sequence not to scale

LAUNCH STAKEHOLDERS



ARIANESPACE

At Arianespace, each mission begins long before lift-off. It starts with our customers' ambitions to explore, connect, understand and protect. From scientific and navigation missions to climate studies and essential space-based services, we design each launch around what matters most to them.

Our role is to provide the most suitable space transportation solution - whatever the payload mass, orbit or complexity of the mission. This is done with the same standard of reliability and performance that has guided Arianespace for more than 45 years. Arianespace operates Ariane 6, Europe's new-generation heavy-lift launcher, developed by the European Space Agency (ESA) with ArianeGroup as industrial prime contractor. With Ariane 6, we ensure Europe's independent access to space and meet the needs of both institutional and commercial customers worldwide.

Mission after mission, we have placed more than 1,200 satellites into orbit for over 150 customers. This experience, gained while meeting the highest industry standards, informs every launch we prepare today. Arianespace is headquartered in Les Mureaux, France. We provide launch services from Europe's Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana, and have offices in Washington D.C., Tokyo and Singapore to support our customers close to their operations.

Arianespace is a subsidiary of ArianeGroup, which holds 100% of its share capital.

Press contact:

[newsroom.arianespace.com](https://www.arianespace.com/newsroom)



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.

Press contact:

[press.ariane.group](https://www.press.ariane.group)



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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