November 2026

Launch kit

VA271

Special feature:

Celebrating the 10th Ariane 6 flight!



Ariane 6

VA271

Amazon Leo LE-04

www.arianespace.com

www.ariane.group

MISSION DESCRIPTION

Arianespace's fifth launch of 2026 will place 36 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).

Ariane 6 Flight VA271 will be the second using the P160C-powered boosters. This upgrade raises Ariane 64's payload capacity to approximately 22 tons in low Earth orbit (LEO).

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

DATE AND TIME:

Liftoff is planned on November 23, 2026, within the following launch window:

- 06:09 - 06:38 Washington D.C. time
- 08:09 - 08:38 Kourou time
- 11:09 - 11:38 Universal time (UTC)
- 12:09 - 12:38 Paris/Berlin time
- 20:09 - 20:38 Tokyo time

MISSION DURATION:

The nominal duration of the mission, from liftoff to separation of all the satellites, is:
2 hours and 4 minutes.

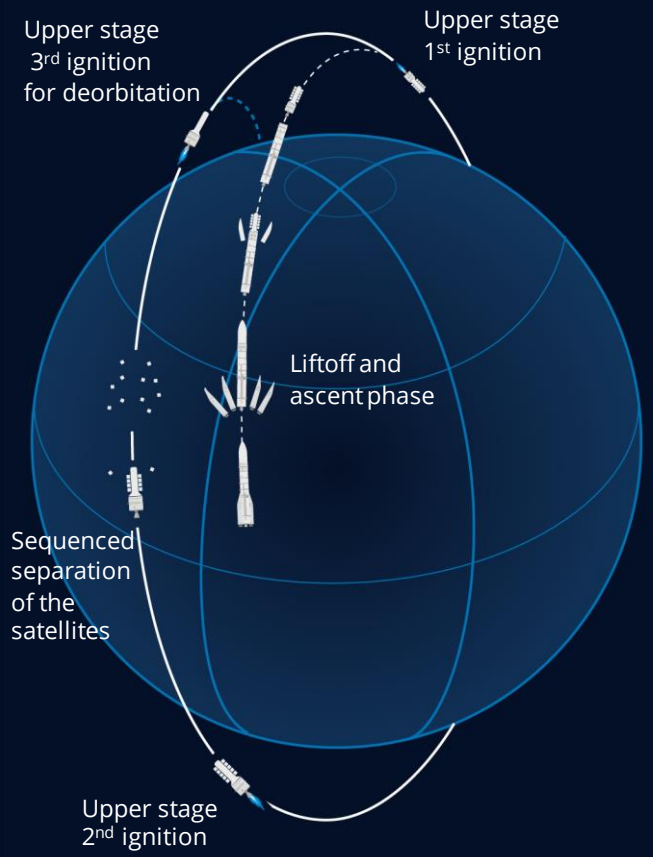
SATELLITES:

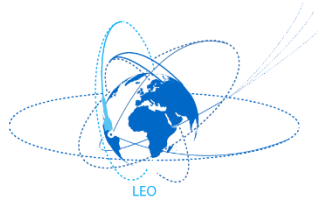
- 36 Amazon Leo satellites (LE-04)
- Customer: Amazon

TARGETED ORBIT:

Low Earth orbit at an altitude of approximately 460 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 VA271 is the fourth in a series of now 24 Ariane 6 launches planned servicing the Amazon Leo constellation. Indeed, the partnership between Arianespace and Amazon, was further strengthened in September 2026 by an order for six additional Ariane 64 launches, bringing its total commitment from 18 to 24 missions.

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 VA271, designated LE-04 by Amazon (Leo Europe 4), will add another 36 satellites to the constellation, bringing the total amount of satellites launched by Arianespace for Amazon Leo to 136.



SATELLITES	36 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 VA271 mission in key figures:

- The 4th Arianespace mission for Amazon Leo (LE-04)
- The 10th Ariane 6 flight and 4th flight of Ariane 64, the Ariane 6 with four boosters
- The 2nd Ariane 6 flight using the P160C-powered boosters
- A total of 136 Amazon Leo satellites deployed by Arianespace (batch of 36 satellites on board)

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

P160C solid rocket motor

Thrust: 3,800 kN (for each)

Cryogenic Vulcain 2.1® engine

Thrust: 1,370 kN

Liftoff weight: 900 tonnes
Liftoff thrust: 16,600 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 P160C-powered boosters

The P160C solid rocket engine represents the next evolution in European launch vehicle propulsion, enhancing the performance and versatility of Ariane 6 while maintaining compatibility with existing launcher architecture.

Building on the proven P120C design, the P160C motor is one metre longer (14.5 metres for the P160C and 13.5 metres for the P120C) and carries up to 156 tons of solid propellant, an increase of 14 tons compared with the P120C (which carried up to 142 tons). This provides a 10–15% increase in the launcher's performance depending on the target low Earth orbit.

The booster's external dimensions remain unchanged at 22 metres in length and 3.4 metres in diameter. The interfaces with the Ariane 6 central core are also unchanged, allowing the launcher to be equipped with either P120C or P160C boosters without modification.

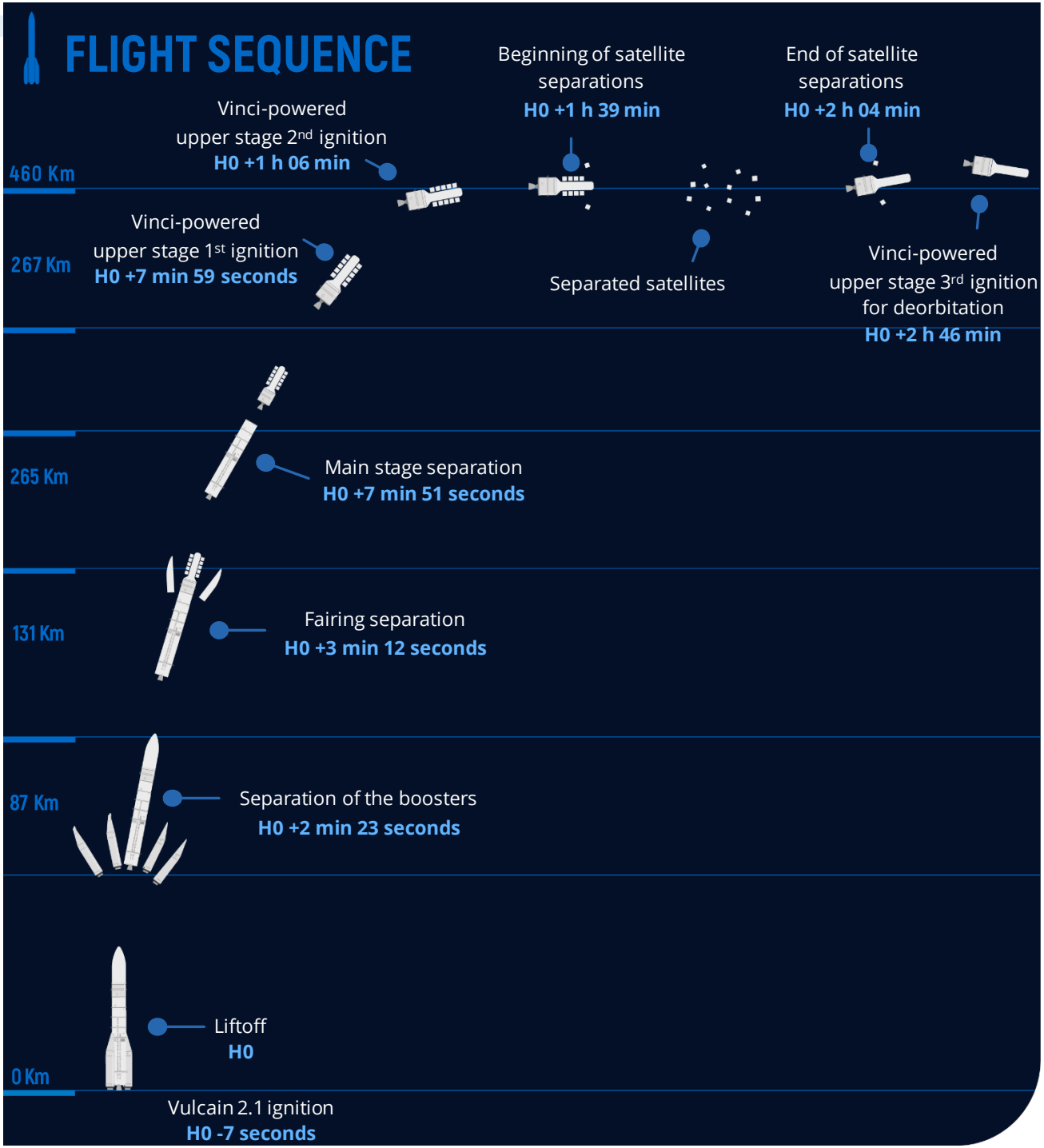
The P160C upgrade increases Ariane 6 payload capacity to low Earth orbit (LEO) by more than two tons, supporting the deployment and early orbit operations of large satellite constellations. It also delivers substantial performance improvements for geostationary, scientific, and exploration missions, expanding the range of missions that Ariane 6 can serve.

LAUNCH CAMPAIGN

23/11/2026	Final launch countdown. Liftoff.
22/11/2026	SSHEL (Liquid helium subsystem) filling
20/11/2026	Launch Readiness Review (LRR)
19/11/2026	Transfer of satellites under fairing to launch zone (ZL4) and assembly on launcher
17/11/2026	Satellites placed under fairing – encapsulation
16/11/2026	Stack assembly onto launch Vehicle Adapter
05/11/2026 06/11/2026	Transfer of central core to launch zone (ZL4) and verticalization Transfer of boosters to ZL4
12/09/2026	Stack final assembly
28/08/2026	Beginning of Launcher Assembly Building phase
28/08/2026	Canopée ship arrives in French Guiana with the Ariane 6 stages
24/08/2026	Start of satellite preparation operations and stack assembly
18/08/2026 - 20/08/2026	Amazon Leo satellites arrive in French Guiana

— Satellite operations — Launcher operations

FLIGHT SEQUENCE



Flight sequence not to scale

CELEBRATING THE 10th ARIANE 6 LAUNCH



9 July 2024
VA262 (FM1) – Inaugural flight
Several cubesats
ESA
Demonstration flight
Low Earth orbit (LEO)



6 March 2025
VA263 Ariane 62 (P120C)
CSO-3
CNES for the DGA
Earth observation for defence and security
Sun-Synchronous orbit (SSO)



12 August 2025
VA264 Ariane 62 (P120C)
Metop-SGA1
EUMETSAT, European Commission
Weather and climate monitoring
SSO



30 April 2026
VA268 Ariane 64 (P120C)
LE-02, 32 satellites (constellation)
Amazon
Connectivity
LEO



16 December 2025
VA266 Ariane 62 (P120C)
Galileo Launch 14 (SAT33 and 34)
European Commission, EUSPA, ESA
Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS)
Middle Earth orbit (MEO)



11 February 2026
VA267 Ariane 64 (P120C)
LE-01, 32 satellites (constellation)
Amazon
Connectivity
LEO



4 November 2025
VA265 Ariane 62 (P120C)
Sentinel-1D (Copernicus satellite)
European Commission, ESA
Radar imagery for Earth observation
SSO



17 June 2026
VA269 Ariane 64 (P160C)
LE-03, 36 satellites (constellation)
Amazon
Connectivity
LEO



27 August 2026
VA270 Ariane 62 (P120C)
MTG-I2
EUMETSAT, ESA
Weather and climate monitoring
Geostationary Transfer orbit (GTO)



(Targeted) **23 November 2026**
VA271 Ariane 64 (P160C)
LE-04, 36 satellites (constellation)
Amazon
Connectivity
LEO

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 monitoring and other essential space-based services, we tailor each launch to their specific needs.

Our role is to design and deliver the space transportation solution best suited to each mission — whatever the payload mass, orbit or complexity. We bring more than 45 years of experience to our customers, with the same commitment to reliability, performance and the success of every launch.

Arianespace markets and operates Ariane 6, Europe's heavy-lift launcher, developed by the European Space Agency (ESA) with ArianeGroup as industrial prime contractor. Modular and versatile, Ariane 6 ensures Europe's autonomous access to space and meets a wide range of mission requirements for both institutional and commercial customers worldwide.

Arianespace is headquartered in Les Mureaux, France, and provides its launch services from Europe's Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana. We also have offices in Washington D.C., Tokyo and Singapore to work closely with our customers in support of their projects. Arianespace is a wholly owned subsidiary of ArianeGroup.

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.

Press contact:
press.ariane.group

ESA

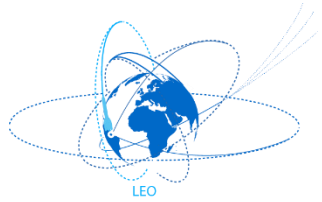
ESA guides the development of Europe's space capabilities and makes sure that space contributes to a safer, more prosperous and sustainable future for its citizens. As an international organisation with 23 Member States, ESA coordinates its members' financial and intellectual resources to undertake ambitious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

Press contact:
media@esa.int

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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