# ArianeGroup gets first production order from Boeing to provide future Satellites with New Generation of Electric Propulsion

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* Boeing and ArianeGroup are jointly developing next generation of electric propulsion for satellites
* Next generation ion propulsion currently in development between Boeing Space and Missiles Systems and ArianeGroup Orbital Propulsion department
* ArianeGroup Radio Frequency Ion Thruster (RIT) technology to help increase payload mass and reduce time to orbit for Boeing satellites
* Strategic agreement signed in June 2017 with an initial production order of RIT 2X electric propulsion flight-sets announced at World Satellite Business Week in Paris

Boeing and the Orbital Propulsion section of ArianeGroup are jointly developing a next-generation ion propulsion system based on the dual-mode Radio Frequency Ion Thruster (RIT) 2X subsystem. Germany via DLR’s Space Administration and Spain via CDTI (Spanish Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology) are supporting the development through their respective contributions to the European Space Agency (ESA) “ARTES” (Advanced Research in Telecommunications Systems) programme as well as the German national space program. The joint activity is combining Boeing’s long-lasting operational heritage and ArianeGroup’s expertise in RIT thruster technology design and development. Thanks to its high-thrust mode for orbit-raising operations, the RIT thruster system will enable Boeing to increase payload mass while reducing time-to-orbit on its satellites. Boeing is using its experience in on-orbit electric propulsion operations to update its satellite architectures for integration of the advanced RIT propulsion system.

The RIT 2X subsystem comprises the thruster itself, a high-power processing unit and a radio frequency generator. The subsystem successfully passed its preliminary design review milestone in mid-2016 and is moving towards a critical design review.

*“This new electrical propulsion product will extend ArianeGroup’s product portfolio of highly-reliable satellite propulsion solutions and will underline our role as a ‘one-stop-shop’ provider for propulsion components, complete propulsion subsystems and associated launch services for satellite primes worldwide,” explained Josef Koecher, Head of Orbital Propulsion at ArianeGroup.*

ArianeGroup’s Orbital Propulsion activity, based at Lampoldshausen, in Germany, contributes its propulsion equipment and subsystem design, manufacturing and test capabilities to this development. Until now around 350 satellites have been equipped with propulsion products from Lampoldshausen, such as telecom satellites, science missions including Rosetta, the space cargo ATV and the future European Service Module for Orion.

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| About ArianeGroupArianeGroup develops and supplies innovative and competitive solutions for civil and military space launchers, with expertise in all aspects of state-of-the-art propulsion technologies. ArianeGroup is lead contractor for Europe’s Ariane 5 and Ariane 6 launcher families, responsible for both design and the entire production chain, up to and including marketing by its Arianespace subsidiary, as well as for the missiles of the French oceanic deterrent force. ArianeGroup and its subsidiaries enjoy a global reputation as specialists in the field of equipment and propulsion for space applications, while their expertise also benefits other industrial sectors. The group is a joint venture equally owned by Airbus and Safran, and employs nearly 9,000 highly qualified staff in France and Germany. Its estimated proforma revenues exceed 3 billion euros.[www.ariane.group](http://www.ariane.group) |
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