

Europe's Launchers

A technical and economic saga

Ariane 5's maiden launch

1996

To adapt to the evolving market, Europe's space policy makers have constantly endeavoured to reinvent new launch capabilities. The development of Ariane 6 and Vega C was decided on in 2014, in view of the competition from new international players. The aim is to further increase competitiveness of access to space.

Previous-generation launchers



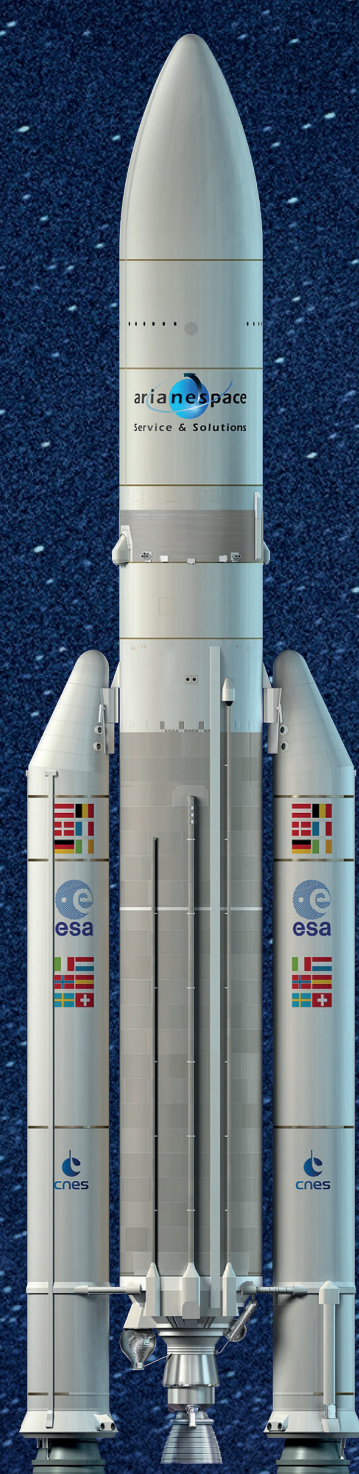
ARIANE 1
11 launches
from 1979 to 1986

ARIANE 3
7 launches
from 1986 to 1989

ARIANE 2
13 launches
from 1983 to 1989

ARIANE 4
116 launches
from 1988 to 2003

Operational launchers

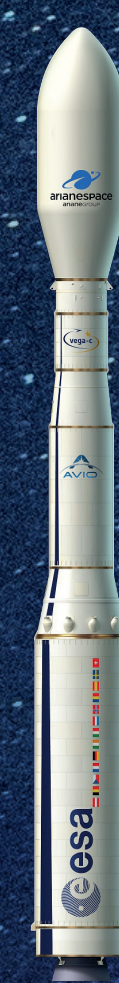


ARIANE 5
Over 100 launches
since 1996*. Configured in two versions, it can deliver dual payloads into geostationary transfer orbit (GTO) or heavy-mass payloads into low-Earth orbit (LEO).



VEGA
Over 15 launches*
since 2012: small payloads and spacecraft in low-Earth orbit.

Launchers in development



VEGA C
With a LEO payload of up to 2.3 t, it will launch Earth observation satellites and clusters of small satellites.



ARIANE 6
A launcher with increased flexibility thanks to two versions, A62 and A64, capable of lofting a 12 t payload into geostationary orbit, plus a re-ignitable engine for accessing different orbits notably for assembling constellations.

* 30 August 2019: figures

Space transportation in Europe also means

11 000 **41%** **FR**
HIGHLY-SKILLED WORKERS **24%** **DE**
in the space **10%** **IT**
transportation industry **7%** **BE**
throughout Europe. **4%** **ES**
16 **14%** **Others**
countries
involved.



Ariane is one of the most reliable launcher in the world with a reliability rate of over 97% for 40 years. This is one of the reason why it has dominated the commercial launch services market for many years.