Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana (csg)

For over 40 years, Europe's Spaceport (CSG) in Kourou has enabled Europe to carry out launches of the Ariane and Vega rockets from its very own Spaceport. Its launch pads, production plants and human ressources are the responsibility of the French space agency CNES. Start of work on the new Ariane 6 launch site

Several factors make Kourou an ideal location for Europe's Spaceport:

2015

- its proximity to the equator, allowing maximum advantage to be taken of the energy provided by the speed of the Earth's rotation (slingshot effect),
- wide exposure to the Atlantic Ocean, favouring eastward and northward launches,
- an area sheltered from cyclones and earthquakes.





D'ÉTUDES SPATIALES

surface area

700 km²

Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana

A launch can not be achieved without the ground segment. Its main functions are control, supply, filling and take-off of launcher, then during the flight phase the follow-up and safety of the launcher thanks to tracking stations disseminated everywhere in world.

The number of space-related jobs in French Guiana, i.e. nearly 1 in 10.

4600

Upper composite

core

Central

shipped from Europe

> Twin solid-propellant Boosters stage

:.... Encapsulation

Assembly

• • • • • • • • • • •

Integration on mobile gantry, then roll-out to launch pad



After a 7 000 km journey by ship, the Ariane 6 lower and upper stages are assembled horizontally to form the rocket's central core. This is then erected vertically directly on the launch pad inside a mobile gantry in order to then integrate the boosters, the fairing assembly and payloads. After final preparations, the mobile gantry is withdrawn and the final countdown starts 9 hours before launch!

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