

28 April 2020

TRADUCTION DE COURTOISIE

PR053-2020

RESUMPTION OF LAUNCH CAMPAIGN OPERATIONS AND CONSTRUCTION OF ARIANE 6 ELA4 LAUNCH COMPLEX AT GUIANA SPACE CENTRE

With the lockdown scheduled to be lifted starting on 11 May, the Guiana Space Centre (CSG) is resuming launch campaign operations and construction work on the Ariane 6 ELA4 launch complex. The health and safety of the Guianese population and of employees at the space base remain the number one priority. Operations will therefore be resumed on the basis of strict observance of instructions and guidelines issued by the Prefect of the French Guiana region, and will be conditional on how the health situation evolves.

Operations to ready for Vega flight VV16 and Ariane 5 flight VA253 have resumed. Teams stationed permanently in French Guiana have been working to restore the base to its operational configuration since 21 April, applying the necessary distancing and transmission reduction measures.

Preventive measures will be applied for the safe arrival of personnel required to perform launch operations, as well as to ensure the safety of the local population:

- Strict social distancing before departing Europe
- Testing for Covid-19 before boarding their aircraft and medical screening as for all people coming into French Guiana through Cayenne airport
- A quarantine period of 14 days in a hotel in Kourou, in accordance with a protocol in the process of being established with the French Guiana regional health agency

Access to the Guiana Space Centre for personnel will be conditional on strict observance of all of these measures.

In these conditions, 100 personnel will be arriving from Europe from 11 May by charter flight to ready Vega for launch. From 25 May, other personnel will be arriving in accordance with the same protocol to ready Ariane 5 for launch.

Construction of the Ariane 6 ELA4 launch complex has resumed since 21 April with teams stationed permanently in French Guiana. Work on site will be getting back up to speed with the arrival of personnel from Europe starting mid-May.

CONTACTS

 Pascale Bresson
 Press Officer
 Tel. +33 (0)1 44 76 75 39
 pascale.bresson@cnes.fr

 Raphaël Sart
 Press Officer
 Tel. +33 (0)1 44 76 74 51
 raphael.sart@cnes.fr