

SPACE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS AND INNOVATIONS SYMPOSIUM (D2)  
Launch Services, Missions, Operations and Facilities (2)

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SOYUZ AT CSG: SUMMARY OF A SUCCESS STORY

**Abstract**

The first idea to install the Russian Soyouz launcher in French Guiana came at the end of the nineties, however the technical, financial and political preparation finished in 2004 with the program decision. A few weeks after, work started on the territory of a small town called Sinnamary situated on CSG at the North of Kourou, to build the 7th Launch pad of the veteran Russian launcher and also the 7th launch pad built by CNES in French Guiana. After 8 years of intensive European and Russian activities, the maiden flight took place the 21st of October 2011 and put successfully the two first Galileo IOV satellites in orbit. This paper gives an overview of all the development from the first studies in 2001 to the final flight preparation in 2011, presenting the major difficulties and the associated lessons learned.