

SPACE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS AND INNOVATIONS SYMPOSIUM (D2)
Launch Vehicles in Service or in Development (1)

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SOYUZ AT CSG, LAST ACTIVITIES BEFORE LAUNCH

Abstract

ABSTRACT

The Soyuz at the CSG (Guiana Space Centre) programme is a key element of the cooperation between Europe and the Russian Federation:

Strengthening the long-term partnership in the field of launch vehicles and providing important benefits

to both Europe and Russia.

Perfectly complementing the operational Ariane 5 European heavy-lift launcher and the small Vega rocket presently under development.

Offering a growth potential for enabling human space flight from CSG, if such political decision will be taken in the future.

The article will present the role of main partners, the progress status which comprise the MIK building for integrating and testing the launch vehicle, the launch control centre, the support buildings for the provision of supplies and the launch pad itself, including the launch platform, the blast deflector, a mobile gantry and a lightning rod system.

The SOYUZ 2 - ST launch vehicle fitted with a Fregat upper stage and a ST fairing exploited by Arianespace at CSG is adapted with respect to flight safety rules in French Guyana.

The programme, started in 2004, has entered the finalisation phase with the integration of the Russian equipments for a first launch expected end 2009.