

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

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ARIANE 5-ME LAUNCH FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT AND QUALIFICATION: MANAGING THE
TRANSITION PHASE

Abstract

The development of a new launch vehicle is always an enormous adventure. A new system design is always challenging but, as in the case of Ariane-5 ME, the need to perform such a development atop an existing system in exploitation while remaining fully compatible with it adds additional complexity and constraints. In particular, the management of the transition phase between the present operational version (A5-ECA) and the A5-ME one will be a key factor for the programme success. This paper intends to give an updated overview of Ariane 5-ME facilities development status, at its "Preliminary Design Review" maturity, outlining the challenges related to the specific new vehicle needs, the A5-ECA bi-compatibility and the need to perform a successful transition phase among the two launchers. Both the aspects related to the launch complex and the production facilities will be assessed.