

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

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MTG-I1 LAUNCH PREPARATION: A VIEW FROM CUSTOMER SIDE

Abstract

MTG-I1 Satellite has been successfully launched into the Geostationary Transfer Orbit by Arianespace flight VA259 on 13 December 2022 from CSG in French Guiana. In the last leg of the long way to prepare the launch, unexpected events happened on both sides, space segment and launch service. The paper provides an insight from the customer point of view into what lead to several changes in the nominal activities normally planned for a "standard shared launch with an Ariane 5 ECA". It underlines the reactivity and the commitment of many teams of several entities spread around Europe. All have contributed to maintain the launch before end of 2022, even if the targeted launch date moved several times between-November and December. The launch campaign in particular, being the last phase of this long journey, despite the considerable amount of challenges encountered and the need to change often the plans in real time, went incredibly smooth. In conclusion, the paper highlights the flexibility showed by all experts involved at all levels to overcome the challenges and the constraints coming from a world-class optical satellite (and in particular the first proto-flight model which faced all the difficulties of a very long development phase) within a launch service conceived originally for telecom satellites.