

A satellite launch for Mexico and Thailand

For its second launch of the year, Arianespace will launch two communications satellites into geostationary transfer orbit: Satmex 6 for Mexico and Thaicom 5 for Thailand.

Ariane 5 is the only commercial launcher in service today capable of launching two payloads at a time, while delivering greater performance, flexibility and competitiveness to its customers.

Private Mexican operator Satélites Mexicanos S.A. de C.V. (Satmex) chose Europe's Ariane launcher to orbit for the fourth time a Mexican communications satellite. Mexico had already opted for Arianespace to launch Solidaridad 1 in November 1993, Solidaridad 2 in October 1994 and Satmex 5 in December 1998.

Satmex 6 was built by Space Systems/Loral of the United States in Palo Alto, California. Weighing about 5,500 kg at launch, it will be positioned at 113 degrees West. Satmex 6 is fitted with 36 C-band transponders and 24 Ku-band transponders. It will bolster Satmex's telecom and Internet service offering throughout Mexico, as well as North America, Hawaii and Latin America.

Thaicom 5 will be the fifth satellite launched by Arianespace for private Thai operator Shin Satellite, following Thaicom 1 in December 1993, Thaicom 2 in October 1994, Thaicom 3 in April 1997 and Thaicom 4 (IPSTAR) in August 2005. Shin Satellite Plc, one of the largest operators in the Asia-Pacific region, has shown renewed confidence in Arianespace, clear recognition of a top-quality launch service.

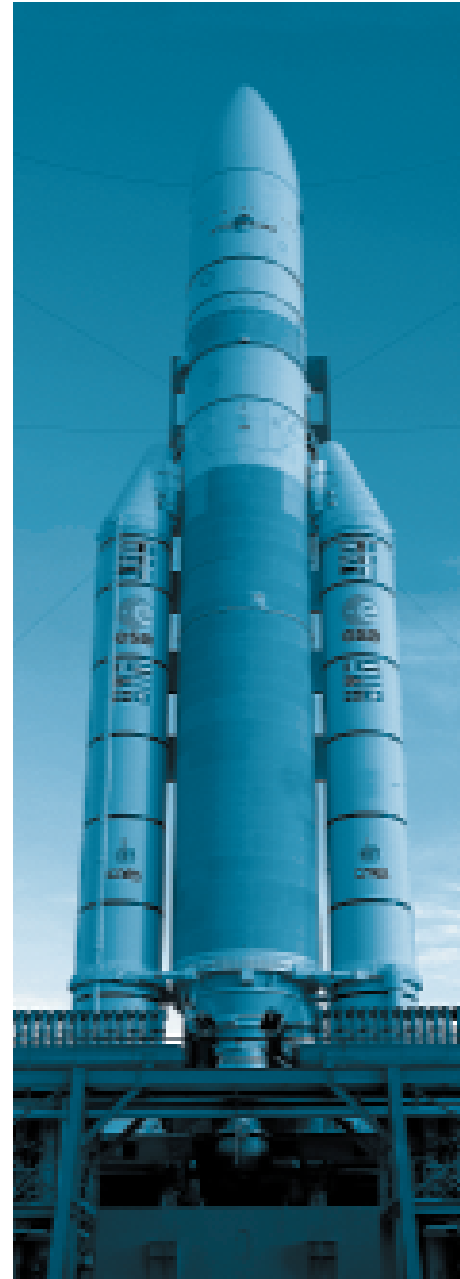
Built by Alcatel Alenia Space, Thaicom 5 will weigh about 2,800 kg at launch. It is fitted with 25 C-band transponders and 14 Ku-band transponders. From its orbital position at 78.5 degrees East, Thaicom 5 will provide telecom and television transmission services for the entire Asia-Pacific region, and will eventually replace Thaicom 3 satellite.

Arianespace will use an Ariane 5 ECA launcher for this mission.

- 1 - The ARIANESPACE mission
- 2 - Range operations campaign: ARIANE 5 - SATMEX 6/THAICOM 5
- 3 - Launch countdown and flight events
- 4 - Flight Trajectory
- 5 - The ARIANE 5 launch vehicle
- 6 - The SATMEX 6 satellite
- 7 - The THAICOM 5 satellite

Appendix

1. Flight Key personnel
2. Launch environment conditions
3. Synchronized sequence
4. ARIANESPACE, its relations with ESA and CNES



1. Arianespace Flight mission

The 171st Ariane launch will orbit two communications satellites: Satmex 6 for Mexican operator Satélites Mexicanos S.A. de C.V. and Thaicom 5 for Thai operator Shinsat.

This will be the 27th Ariane 5 launch.

The launcher will be carrying a total payload of 9,212 kg, including 8,222 kg for the Satmex 6 and Thaicom 5 satellites, to be separated in their assigned orbits.

The mission will be carried out from Ariane Launch Complex No. 3 (ELA 3) in Kourou, French Guiana.

Injection orbit

Perigee altitude	249,7 km
Apogee altitude	35,914 km at injection
Inclination	7° degrees

The lift-off is scheduled on the night of may 26 to 27, 2006 as soon as possible within the following launch window:

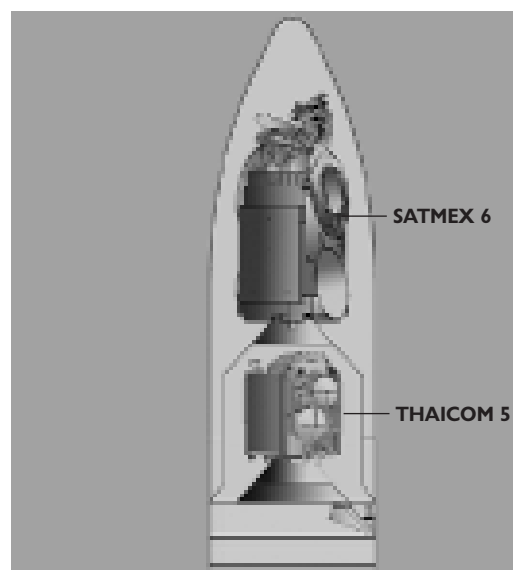
Launch opportunity

	Universal time (GMT)	Paris	Washington time	Mexico time	Bangkok time	Kourou time
Between	09:09 pm	11:09 pm	05:09 pm	04:09 pm	04:09 am	06:09 pm
and	09:54 pm	11:54 am	05:54 pm	04:54 pm	04:54 am	06:54 pm
on	May 26, 2006	May 26, 2006	May 26, 2006	May 26, 2006	May 27, 2006	May 26, 2006

Ariane payload configuration

The Satmex 6 satellite was designed, assembled and integrated by Space Systems/Loral in Palo Alto, California, for the operator Satmex.
Orbital position: 113 degrees West, over the Pacific Ocean.

The Thaicom 5 satellite was built by Alcatel Alenia Space in Cannes, southern France, for the operator Shinsat.
Orbital position: 78.5 degrees East, over the Indian Ocean.



2. Range operations campaign: ARIANE 5 - SATMEX 6 - THAICOM 5

Satellites and launch vehicle campaign calendar

Ariane activities	Dates	Satellites activities
<i>Campaign start review</i>	<i>March 24, 2006</i>	
<i>EPC Erection</i>	<i>March 24, 2006</i>	
<i>EAP transfer and positioning</i>	<i>March 27-28, 2006</i>	
<i>Integration EPC/EAP</i>	<i>March 28, 2006</i>	
<i>ESC-A Erection</i>	<i>March 31, 2006</i>	
<i>Integration equipment bay</i>	<i>April 3, 2006</i>	
	<i>April 21, 2006</i>	<i>Arrival in Kourou and beginning of SATMEX 6 preparation campaign in building S5C</i>
	<i>April 22, 2006</i>	<i>Arrival in Kourou and beginning of THAICOM 5 preparation campaign in building S5C</i>
<i>Roll-out from BIL to BAF</i>	<i>May 10, 2006</i>	
	<i>May 6-10, 2006</i>	<i>SATMEX 6 filling operations in S5A building</i>
	<i>May 9-11, 2006</i>	<i>THAICOM 5 filling operations in S5B building</i>

Satellites and launch vehicle campaign final calendar

<i>J-10</i>	<i>Friday, May 12</i>	<i>SATMEX 6 integration on adaptor</i>
<i>J-9</i>	<i>Saturday, May 13</i>	<i>SATMEX 6 transfer to Final Assembly Building (BAF)</i>
<i>J-8</i>	<i>Monday, May 15</i>	<i>SATMEX 6 integration on Sylda - THAICOM 5 integration on adaptor</i>
<i>J-7</i>	<i>Tuesday, May 16</i>	<i>Fairing integration on Sylda - THAICOM 5 transfer to Final Assembly Building (BAF)</i>
<i>J-6</i>	<i>Wednesday, May 17</i>	<i>THAICOM 5 integration on launcher</i>
<i>J-5</i>	<i>Thursday, May 18</i>	<i>Upper composite integration with SATMEX 6 on launcher</i>
<i>J-4</i>	<i>Friday, May 19</i>	<i>ESC-A final preparations and payloads control</i>
<i>J-3</i>	<i>Monday, May 22</i>	<i>Launch rehearsal</i>
<i>J-2</i>	<i>Tuesday, May 23</i>	<i>Launch readiness review (RAL) and final preparation of launcher</i>
<i>J-2 bis</i>	<i>Wednesday, May 24</i>	<i>Arming of launch vehicle</i>
<i>J-1</i>	<i>Thursday, May 25</i>	<i>Roll-out from BAF to Launch Area (ZL), launch vehicle connections and filling of the EPC liquid Helium sphere</i>
<i>J-0</i>	<i>Friday, May 26</i>	<i>Launch countdown including EPC and ESC-A filling with liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen</i>

3. Launch countdown and flight events

The countdown comprises all final preparation steps for the launcher, the satellites and the launch site. If it proceeds as planned, the countdown leads to the ignition of the main stage engine, then the two boosters, for a liftoff at the targeted time, as early as possible in the satellites launch window.

The countdown culminates in a synchronized sequence (see appendix 3), which is managed by the control station and onboard computers starting at T-7 minutes.

If an interruption in the countdown means that T-0 falls outside the launch window, then the launch will be delayed by one, two or more days, depending on the problem involved, and the solution developed.

Time	Events
- 11 h 30 mn	Start of final countdown
- 7 h 30 mn	Check of electrical systems
- 5 h 50 mn	Start of filling of main cryogenic stage with liquid oxygen and hydrogen
- 3 h 20 mn	Chilldown of Vulcain main stage engine
- 1 h 10 mn	Check of connections between launcher and telemetry, tracking and command systems
- 7 mn 00 s	"All systems go" report, allowing start of synchronized sequence
- 4 mn 00 s	Tanks pressurized for flight
- 1 mn 00 s	Switch to onboard power mode
- 05,5 s	Command issued for opening of cryogenic arms
- 04 s	Onboard systems take over
- 03 s	Unlocking of guidance systems to flight mode

HO	Ignition of the cryogenic main stage engine (EPC)	ALT (km)	V. rel. (m/s)
+ 7,0 s	Ignition of solid boosters	0	0
+ 7,3 s	Liftoff	0	0
+ 13 s	End of vertical climb and beginning of pitch rotation (10 seconds duration)	0.090	37
+ 17 s	Beginning of roll manoeuvre	0.330	74
+ 2 mn 20 s	Jettisoning of solid boosters	64.8	1970
+ 3 mn 15 s	Jettisoning of fairing	105.2	2219
+ 7 mn 55 s	Acquisition by Natal tracking station	159.8	5343
+ 8 mn 56 s	Shut-down of main cryogenic stage	156.7	6872
+ 9 mn 02 s	Separation of main cryogenic stage	157.0	6895
+ 9 mn 06 s	Ignition of upper cryogenic stage (ESC-A)	157.2	6900
+ 13 mn 44 s	Acquisition by Ascension tracking station	158.2	7567
+ 18 mn 17 s	Acquisition by Libreville tracking station	186.8	8304
+ 23 mn 18 s	Acquisition by Malindi tracking station	443.5	9380
+ 24 mn 51 s	Shut-down of ESC-A / Injection	628.3	9378
+ 27 mn 00 s	Separation of SATMEX 6 satellite	934.7	9122
+ 28 mn 55 s	Separation of Sylda 5	1269.8	8858
+ 32 mn 19 s	Separation of THAICOM 5 satellite	1972.9	8351
+ 44 mn 24 s	End of Arianespace Flight mission	4954.0	6700

4. Flight trajectory

The launcher's attitude and trajectory are totally controlled by the two onboard computers, located in the Ariane 5 vehicle equipment bay (VEB).

7.05 seconds after ignition of the main stage cryogenic engine at T-0, the two solid-propellant boosters are ignited, enabling liftoff. The launcher first climbs vertically for 6 seconds, then rotates towards the East. It maintains an attitude that ensures the axis of the launcher remains parallel to its velocity vector, in order to minimize aerodynamic loads throughout the entire atmospheric phase, until the solid boosters are jettisoned.

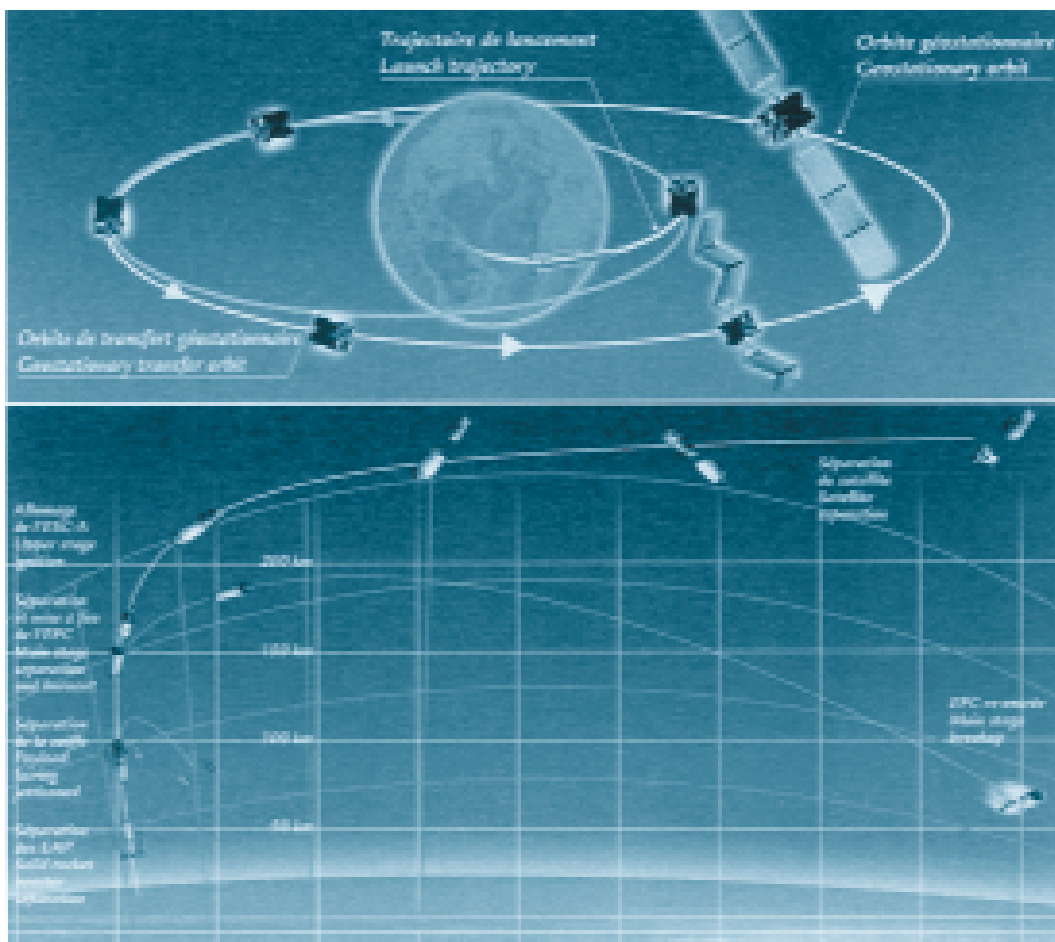
Once this first part of the flight is completed, the onboard computers optimize the trajectory in real time, minimizing propellant consumption to bring the launcher first to the intermediate orbit targeted at the end of the main stage propulsion phase, and then the final orbit at the end of the flight of the cryogenic upper stage.

The main stage falls back off the coast of Africa in the Atlantic Ocean (in the Gulf of Guinea).

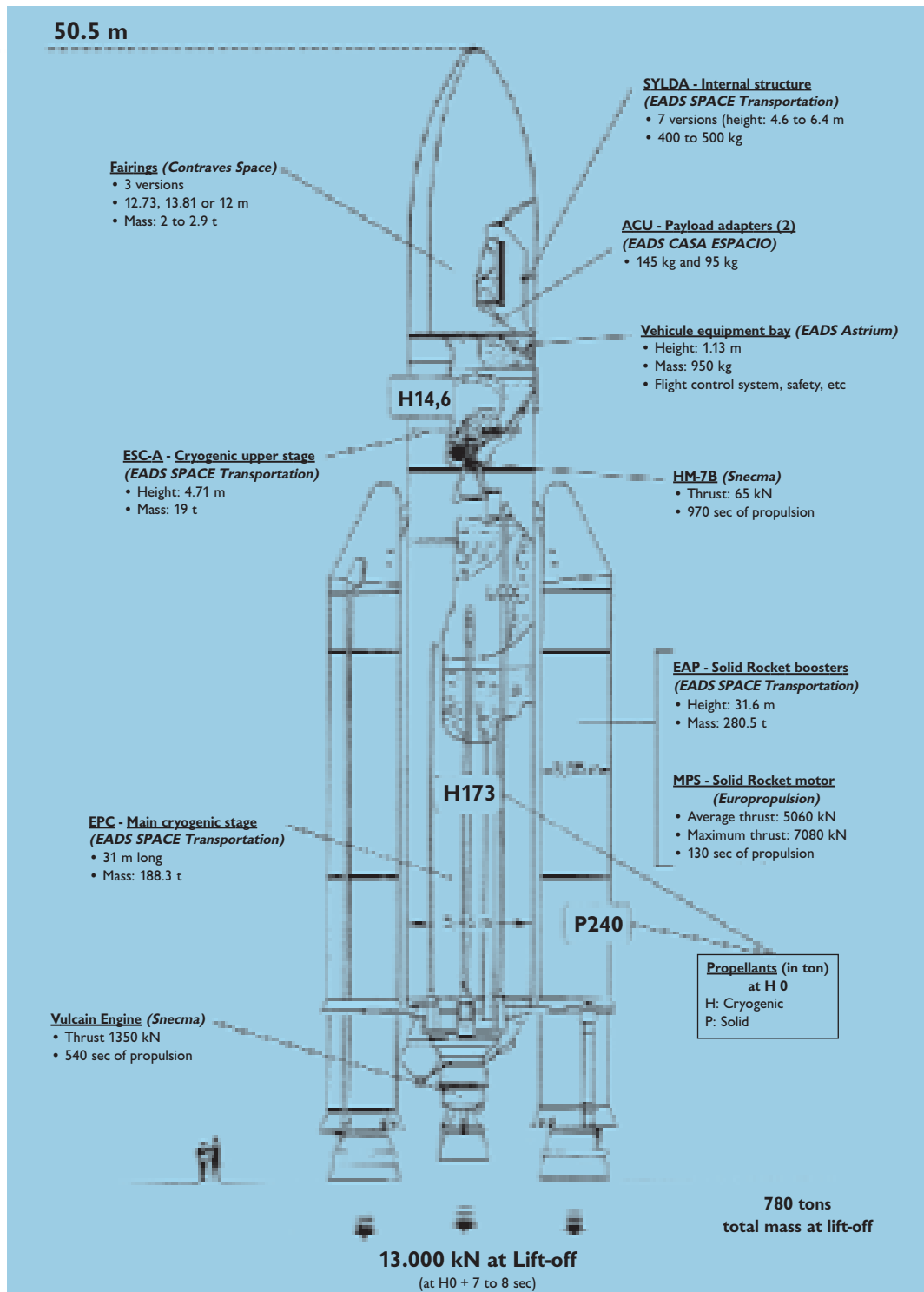
On orbital injection, the launcher will have attained a velocity of approximately 9378 meters/second, and will be at an altitude of about 628 kilometers.

The fairing protecting the SATMEX 6/THAICOM 5 spacecraft is jettisoned shortly after the boosters are jettisoned at about T+196 seconds.

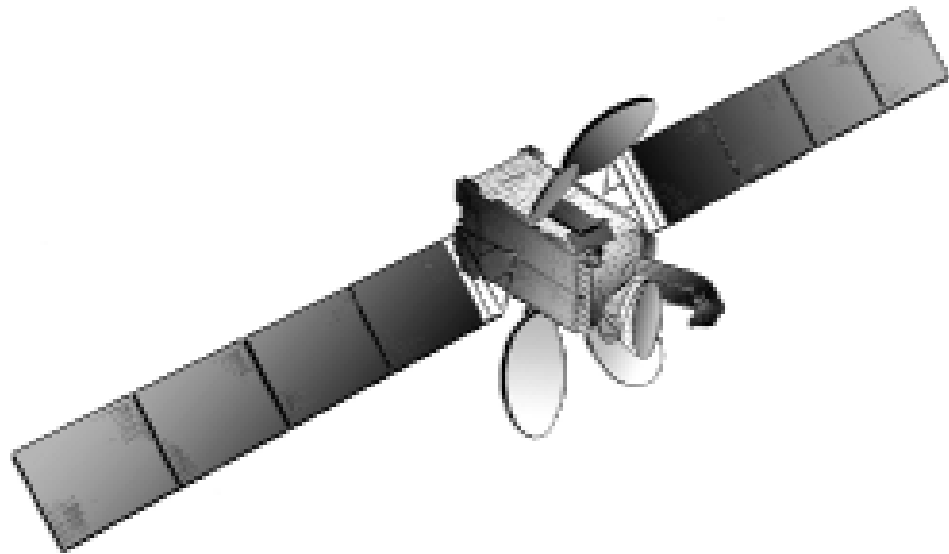
Standard Ariane 5 trajectory for geostationary transfer orbit



5. The Ariane 5-ECA (Industrial architect: EADS SPACE Transportation)



6. The SATMEX 6 satellite

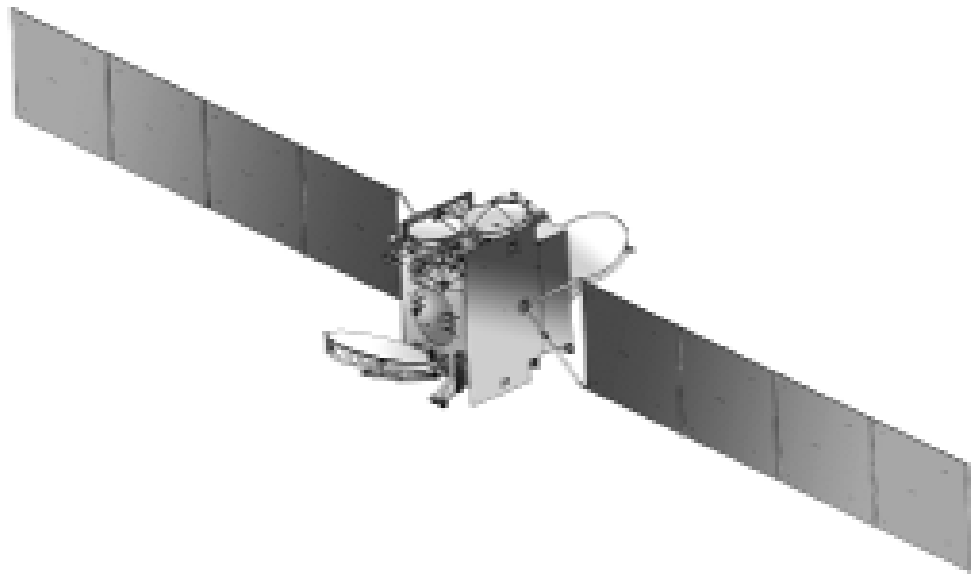


Customer	SATELITES MEXICANOS, SA de CV.	
<i>Prime contractor</i>	<i>SPACE SYSTEMS LORAL (SS/L)</i>	
<i>Mission</i>	<i>Communications</i>	
<i>Mass</i>	<i>Total mass at lift-off</i>	5,456 kg
	<i>Dry mass</i>	2,310 kg
<i>Stabilization</i>	<i>3 axis stabilized</i>	
<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>7.4 x 2.8 x 3.4 m</i>	
<i>Span in orbit</i>	<i>31.4 m</i>	
<i>Platform</i>	<i>LS 1300 bus</i>	
<i>Payload</i>	<i>36 C band transponders and 24 Ku band transponder</i>	
<i>On-board power</i>	<i>12,690 W (end of life)</i>	
<i>Life time</i>	<i>15 years</i>	
<i>Orbital position</i>	<i>113° West</i>	
<i>Coverage area</i>	<i>CONUS, NAFTA, South America, Hawaii, the Carribean</i>	

Press Contact:

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7. The THAICOM 5 satellite



Customer	SHIN SATELLITE	
<i>Prime contractor</i>	<i>Alcatel Alenia Space</i>	
<i>Mission</i>	<i>Direct TV and telecommunications</i>	
<i>Mass</i>	<i>Total mass at lift-off</i>	<i>2,766 kg</i>
	<i>Dry mass</i>	<i>1,220 kg</i>
<i>Stabilization</i>	<i>3 axis stabilized</i>	
<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>at launch</i>	<i>3.7 x 3.3 x 2.2 m</i>
	<i>span in orbit</i>	<i>26.2 m</i>
<i>Platform</i>	<i>SPACEBUS 3000 A</i>	
<i>Payload</i>	<i>14 Ku band transponders and 25 C band transponders</i>	
<i>On-board power</i>	<i>5,000 W (end of life)</i>	
<i>Life time</i>	<i>12 years</i>	
<i>Orbital position</i>	<i>78.5° East</i>	
<i>Coverage area</i>	<i>Thailand, South East Asia and Global Coverage (Africa, Europe, Asia and Australia)</i>	

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Appendix 1. Arianespace SATMEX 6/THAICOM 5 launch key personnel

In charge of the launch campaign

<i>Mission Director</i>	<i>(CM)</i>	<i>Jean-Marc DURAND</i>	<i>ARIANESPACE</i>
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In charge of the launch service contract

<i>Ariane Payload Manager</i>	<i>(RCUA)</i>	<i>Christophe BARDOU</i>	<i>ARIANESPACE</i>
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<i>Ariane Deputy Mission Manager</i>	<i>(RCUA/A)</i>	<i>Luca CHIECCHIO/Jérôme RIVES</i>	<i>ARIANESPACE</i>
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In charge of SATMEX 6 satellite

<i>Satellite Mission Director</i>	<i>(DMS)</i>	<i>Roberto BETANCOURT</i>	<i>SATMEX</i>
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<i>Satellite Program Manager</i>	<i>(CPS)</i>	<i>Larry RUBIN/Grant GOULD</i>	<i>SS/L</i>
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<i>Satellite Preparation Manager</i>	<i>(RPS)</i>	<i>Mike HUGHES</i>	<i>SS/L</i>
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In charge of THAICOM 5 satellite

<i>Satellite Mission Director</i>	<i>(DMS)</i>	<i>Framook CHAIWONGWUTTIKUR</i>	<i>SHINSAT</i>
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<i>Satellite Program Manager</i>	<i>(CPS)</i>	<i>Rene NEYER</i>	<i>Alcatel Alenia Space</i>
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<i>Satellite Preparation Manager</i>	<i>(RPS)</i>	<i>Jean-Luc LELIEVRE</i>	<i>Alcatel Alenia Space</i>
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In charge of the launch vehicle

<i>Launch Site Operations Manager</i>	<i>(COEL)</i>	<i>Pierre-François BENAITEAU</i>	<i>ARIANESPACE</i>
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<i>Ariane Production Project Manager</i>	<i>(CPAP)</i>	<i>Franck VASSEUR</i>	<i>ARIANESPACE</i>
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In charge of the Guiana Space Center (CSG)

<i>Range Operations Manager</i>	<i>(DDO)</i>	<i>Emmanuel SANCHEZ</i>	<i>CNES/CSG</i>
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<i>Flight Safety Officer</i>	<i>(RSV)</i>	<i>Raymond BOYCE</i>	<i>CNES/CSG</i>
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Appendix 2. Launch environment conditions

Acceptable wind speed limits at lift-off range from between 7.5 m/s to 9.5 m/s according to the wind direction. The most critical is a northerly wind. For safety reasons, the wind's speed on the ground (Kourou), and at a high altitude (between 10,000 and 20,000 m) is also taken into account.

Appendix 3. The synchronized sequence

The synchronized sequence starts 7 mn before ignition (T-0), it is primarily designed to perform the final operations on the launcher prior to launch, along with the ultimate checks needed following switchover to flight configuration. As its name indicates, it is fully automatic, and is performed concurrently by the onboard computer and by two redundant computers at the ELA 3 launch complex until T-4 seconds.

The computers command the final electrical operations (startup of the flight program, servocontrols, switching from ground power supply to onboard batteries, etc.) and associated checks. They also place the propellant and fluid systems in flight configuration and perform associated checks. In addition, it handles the final ground system configurations, namely:

- Startup of water injection in the flame trenches and jet guide (T-30 sec).
- Hydrogen aspiration for chilldown of the Vulcain engine in the jet guide (T-18 sec).
- Burnoff of hydrogen used for chilldown (T-5.5 sec).

At T-4 seconds, the onboard computer takes over control of final engine startup and lift-off operations:

- It starts the ignition sequence for the Vulcain main stage engine (T-0).
- It checks engine operation (from T+4.5 to T+7.3 sec).
- It commands ignition of the solid boosters for immediate lift-off at T+7.3 seconds.

Any shutdown of the synchronized sequence after T-7 mn automatically places the launcher back in its T-7 min configuration.



Appendix 4. Arianespace, its relations with ESA and CNES

From a production base in Europe, Arianespace, a private company, serves customers all over the world.

Arianespace is the world's first commercial space transportation company, created in 1980 by 36 leading European aerospace and electronics corporations, 13 major banks and the French space agency CNES (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales).

The shareholder partners in Arianespace represent the scientific, technical, financial and political capabilities of 12 countries: Belgium, Denmark, Germany, France, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland and Sweden.

In order to meet the market needs, Arianespace is present throughout the world: in Europe, with its head office located near Paris, France at Evry, in North America with its subsidiary in Washington D.C. and in the Pacific Region, with its representative offices in Tokyo, Japan, and in Singapore.

Arianespace employs a staff of 250. Share capital totals 395,010 €.

Arianespace is in charge of these main areas:

- markets launch services to customers throughout the world ;
- finances and supervises the construction of Ariane expendable launch vehicle ;
- conducts launches from Europe's Spaceport of Kourou in French Guiana.

Personalized reliable service forms an integral part of Arianespace launch package. It includes the assignment of a permanent team of experts to each mission for the full launch campaign.

Today, Arianespace's offer is mainly based on Ariane 5. With its proven experience, demonstrated business model and unquestioned credibility, Arianespace has been committed for more than 24 years to providing its customers - satellite operators around the world - a technically and economically reliable means offer to place their satellites on the targeted orbit at the right moment. This offer is strengthened by the flexibility provided by the three launcher fleet - Ariane 5, Soyuz and Vega - and by the Launch Services Alliance, which gives customers mission back-up aboard alternative launch systems.

Relations between ESA, CNES and ARIANESPACE

Development of the Ariane launcher was undertaken by the European Space Agency in 1973. ESA assumed overall direction of the ARIANE 1 development program, delegating the technical direction and financial management to CNES. The ARIANE 1 launcher was declared qualified and operational in January 1982. At the end of the development phase which included four launchers, ESA started the production of five further ARIANE 1 launchers. This program, known as the "promotion series", was carried out with a management arrangement similar to that for the ARIANE 1 development program.

In January 1980 ESA decided to entrust the commercialization, production and launching of operational launchers to a private-law industrial structure, in the form of ARIANESPACE company, placing at its disposal the facilities, equipment and tooling needed of producing and launching the ARIANE launchers. ARIANE follow-on development programs have been undertaken by ESA since 1980. They include a program for developing updated versions of the launcher: Ariane 2 and Ariane 3 (qualified in August 1984) ; the program for building a second ARIANE launch site (ELA 2) (validated in August 1985) ; the Ariane 4 launcher development program (qualified on June 15th, 1988) ; and the preparatory and development program of the Ariane 5 launcher and its new launch facilities: ELA 3 (qualified on November, 1997). All these programs are run under the overall direction of ESA, which has appointed CNES as prime contractor. In general, as soon as an updated version of the launcher has been qualified 5 oct, 1998, ESA makes the results of the development program together with the corresponding production and launch facilities available to ARIANESPACE. ESA is responsible (as design authority) for development work on the Ariane launchers. The Agency owns all the assets produced under these development programs. It entrusts technical direction and financial management of the development work to CNES, which writes the program specifications and places the industrial contracts on its behalf. The Agency retains the role of monitoring the work and reporting to the participating States.

Since Flight 9 Arianespace has been responsible for building and launching the operational Ariane launchers (as production authority), and for industrial production management, for placing the launcher manufacturing contracts, initiating procurements, marketing and providing Ariane launch services, and directing launch operations.

The Guiana Space Center: Europe's Spaceport

For over 30 years, the Guiana Space Center (CSG), Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana, has offered a complete array of facilities for rocket launches.

It mainly comprises the following:

- CNES/CSG technical center, including various resources and facilities that are critical to launch bas operation, such as radars, telecom network, weather station, receiving sites for launcher telemetry, etc.
- Payload processing facilities (EPCU), in particular the new S5 facility.
- Ariane launch complexes (ELA), comprising the launch zone and launcher integration buildings.
- Various industrial facilities, including those operated by Regulus, Europropulsion, Air Liquide Spacial Guyane and EADS, which contribute to the production of Ariane 5 elements. A total of 40 European manufacturers and local companies are involved in operations.

Europe's commitment to independent access to space is based on actions by three key players: the European space Agency (ESA), French space agency CNES and Arianespace.

ESA has helped change the role of the Guiana Space Center, in particular by funding the construction of the launch complexes, payload processing buildings and associated facilities. Initially used for the French space program, the Guiana Space Center has gradually become Europe's own spaceport, according to the terms of an agreement between ESA and the french government.

To ensure that the Spaceport is available for its programs, ESA takes charge of the lion's share of CNES/CSG fixed expenses, and also helps finance the fixed costs for the ELA launch complexes.

French space agency CNES plays several roles at the Space Center.

- It designs all infrastructures and, on behalf of the French government, is responsible for safety and security.
- It provides the resources needed to prepare the satellites and launcher for missions.

Whether during tests or actual launches, CNES is also responsible for overall coordination of operations. It collects and processes all data transmitted from the launcher via a network of receiving stations, to track Ariane rockets throughout their trajectory.

In French Guiana, Arianespace is the contracting authority in charge of operating the family of three launchers, Ariane, Soyuz and Vega.

For the Ariane launcher, Arianespace: calls on EADS ST, launcher integration prime contractor, for all launcher integration and functional checks in the Launcher Integration Building (BIL), coordinates satellite preparation in the Payload Preparation Complex (EPCU), operated by the Guiana Space Center (CSG), handles final assembly of the launcher and integration of satellites in the Final Assembly Building (BAF), handles transfer of the launcher to Launch Zone No. 3, then oversees final countdown and launch from Launch Center No. 3.

Arianespace has created a top-flight team and array of technical resources to get launchers and satellites ready for their missions. Building on this unrivalled expertise and outstanding local facilities, Arianespace is now the undisputed benchmark in the global launch services market.