Intro:

**Historically, 2012 will become the year that Europe established fully autonomous access to space; when on February the 13th, Europe’s launcher portfolio was completed with the successful qualification flight of Vega from Europe’s spaceport at Kourou, French Guiana. But there were many other success’s for ESA to celebrate this year: the third Automated Transfer Vehicle, ATV 3, was launched by the powerful Ariane 5, sending 6.6 tons of cargo to the International space Station; ESA astronaut André Kuipers returned from the ISS on the 1st July after more than 6 months of conducting science experiments aboard; thanks to ESA’s Venus express mission, in orbit around the planet since 2005, the scientific community had a close-up view of Venus passing in front of the Sun on the night of the June the 5th during the Solar Transit, which only happens twice every 112 years; summer also saw the launch of 2 new weather satellites - MSG 3 and METOP B; October sawanother step taken towards the completion of Galileo with the successful launch of 2 more IOV satellites now making it possible to check all aspects of Galileo’s design. And finally at the ESA Council meeting in Naples in November; ministers from all 20 ESA member states allocated 10 Billion Euros to Space programmes despite the economic difficulties of the times. The meeting also saw the birth of a new Ariane 6 programme.**

Highlights 2012

**10:00:00**

**Historically, 2012 will become the year that Europe established fully autonomous access to space; when on February the 13th, Europe’s launcher portfolio was completed with the successful qualification flight of Vega from Europe’s spaceport at Kourou, French Guiana.**

*Vega launch*

00:29

**This will make access to space for mid-range satellites, easier, quicker and cheaper. By extending its range of launchers to include VEGA, along with Ariane 5 and Soyuz, Europe now leads the way in the global launch market, with the ability to launch any size of payload into any orbit.**

*graphic image of all three launchers Ariane, Vega and Soyuz then animation of Herschel and Planck being released from Ariane*

*00:47*

**Still in Kourou, a month later, the third Automated Transfer Vehicle, ATV 3, was launched by the powerful Ariane 5, sending 6.6 tons of cargo to the International space Station. ATV is the smartest vehicle in space to date; with an on-board navigation system that enables it to dock automatically to the ISS. With the retirement of the NASA space shuttle, ATV has become indispensable in ferrying goods to the astronauts in orbit around the earth.**

*Launch of ATV 3 on Ariane 5, Animation and real images of ATV Docking and real images of unloading cargo with Andre Kuipers.*

**01:20**

**The arrival of ATV 3 was closely monitored by ESA astronaut André Kuipers. After leaving for the ISS on a Soyuz from Baikonur at the end of 2011 he returned on the 1st July after more than 6 months of conducting science experiments aboard the ISS.**

*Andre Kuipers on-board ISS unloading and doing science in ISS laboratory.*

**01:37**

**June witnessed a rare event when Venus passed in front of the Sun on the night of the 5th. This Solar Transit, which only happens twice every 112 years, has always been a great opportunity for astronomers to discover more about the solar system. But now, thanks to ESA’s Venus express mission, in orbit around the planet since 2005, the scientific community has a permanent close-up view , allowing a better understanding of this planet.**

*Images - from Svalbad of venus transit and astronomers watching Venus transit in front of sun, Then animation of Venus express, then model of surface of Venus.*

**02:08**

**For 35 years, satellites have been providing Europe with accurate weather forecasting and climate monitoring. Last summer saw the launch for Eumetsat of 2 new weather satellites - MSG 3, used for the study of meteorology and climate change - and METOP B, a polar orbiting satellite which provide the most accurate services for monitoring climate and immediate weather forecasting.**

*Footage of Forcasting stations and different satellites. Then MSG 3 in clean room and Meteop B in clean room.*

**02:31**

**October sawanother step taken towards the completion of Galileo, Europe’s independent satellite navigation system. With the successful launch of 2 more satellites to join the two previous In Orbit Validation satellites launched in 2011; Europe is now able to check all aspects of Galileo’s design. When complete Galileo’s constellation of 30 spacecraft will provide a full worldwide range of autonomous European services.**

*Soyuz lift off with IOV satllites from Guiana, then animations of Gallileo*

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**03:00**

**Finally, 2012 has been an important financial and structural year for space in Europe. At the ESA Council meeting in Naples in November; ministers in charge of space from all 20 ESA member states allocated 10 Billion Euros to Space programmes despite the economic difficulties of the times. This will make possible the development of a new manned service module for the ISS, 2 new telecom missions, Neosat and Elektra, and historically - the birth of a new Ariane 6 programme.**

**Clearly ESA’s efforts in Space are recognised and society understands that investing in space can boost innovation, economic growth and competitiveness**

*Images from ministerial conference-and ending on Ariane 5launch fading into animation of Ariane 6 -*

03:48 the end

B-Roll

03:48 – Vega launch, Kourou, French Guiana x 6

04:32 ATV3 lpreperation and launch aboard Ariane 5 x 10

05:58 –ATV approach and docking animation x 5

06:46 – ESA astronaut Andre Kuiper’s and other ISS crew members unloading ATV X 4

08:33 – Venus transit observation in Svalbard x 15

10:17 – Metop B animation x 3

11:15 – IOV-2 launch and Galileo animation x 8

13:01 – ESA Ministerial council, Naples x 18

14:45 end