**ESA Ministerial\_Launchers**

Decisions about the future of the Europe’s space programme will be made at the ESA Ministerial Council meeting on 1-2 December.

Ministers from the 22 ESA member states and Canada will gather in Lucerne, Switzerland to agree on future spending priorities. As well as funding a core programme, ESA members can subscribe to optional programmes. These range from future astronomy missions to the development of new satellite communications systems.

Before the meeting, each ESA directorate has drawn-up a list of priorities to be considered by ministers. In this report, we hear from ESA’s Launcher Directorate.

**A-ROLL**

10:00:00

[ARIANE 5 LAUNCH KOUROU, FRENCH GUIANA

<http://www.esa.int/esatv/Videos/2013/02/European_launchers_powering_Europe_into_space/Ariane_5_launch_Kourou_French_Guiana>]

Europe currently operates three launchers from its space port at Kourou in French Guiana.…Ariane 5 - one of the world’s most reliable launch vehicles…capable of carrying up to 20 tonnes to orbit…

[SOYUZ LAUNCH – GALILEO 9/10]

Soyuz - a medium class Russian launcher…

[VEGA LAUNCH – IXV]

And Vega - designed to launch the increasingly important class of smaller satellites. All these launchers provide Europe with independent access to space.

[ESA MINISTERIAL COUNCIL 2014 GVS]

At the last ESA Ministerial Council meeting in December 2014, ministers approved the development of next generation launchers, Ariane 6 and Vega C…

10:01:00

[Daniel Neuenschwander, Director of Launchers]

*We have major ongoing development programmes with Ariane 6 and Vega C. This will allow Europe to enhance its strategic access to space, to enhance its position on the commercial market. The main objective is to lower costs and to be competitive on a worldwide level.*

10:01:17

[ARIANE 6 LAUNCH ANIMATION]

At this year’s ESA Ministerial Council meeting, the Launcher Directorate will be asking for continued support for the Launchers Exploitation and Accompaniment Programme as well as launcher operations and future development strategy.

10:01:30

[Daniel Neuenschwander, Director of Launchers]

*Short-term what we have in Lucerne is the support for exploitation - where we are working on the services from our launch base, we are also maintaining an operational capacity - Ariane 5 and Vega. Then we have the mid-term, which is still in full development with Ariane 6 and Vega C and in the longer term we have to prepare now Europe’s strategic position for the future.*

10:01:56

[KOUROU GVS]

Maintaining this world class capability in launch vehicles is considered vital for the future of Europe’s growing space economy.

10:02:05

[Daniel Neuenschwander, Director of Launchers]

*This is absolutely key to secure the independent access to space for Europe. There is a strategic dimension for Europe to have its own access. There is a second point of consolidation on the commercial market of our well-defined position.*

10:02:21

[IXV LAUNCH CAMPAIGN AND ANIMATIONS]

Following the success of ESA’s IXV reentry vehicle, the Directorate will also be asking for support to develop a new reusable spacecraft known as Space Rider. Launched on a Vega-C, this would be used to routinely access and return from low Earth orbit with a wide range of payloads and applications.

10:02:42

**B-Roll**

Daniel Neuenschwander, Director of Launchers (English)

10:03:55

Daniel Neuenschwander, Director of Launchers (French)

10:04:44

IXV animations

10:08:54

Ariane 5 launch

10:09:31

Soyuz launch – Galileo 9/10 (Sept 10 2015)

10:10:33

Vega launch – IXV (Feb 11 2015)

10:11:22

END