

## Info presse – Press info

# Arianespace Flight VV18: Pléiades Neo 3 and five auxiliary payloads

- The launch readiness review (RAL) took place in Kourou on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, and authorized count-down operations for Vega Flight VV18.
- Arianespace's upcoming Vega launch, scheduled for April 28, 2021, will orbit Pleiades Neo 3, the first satellite in the new Earth observation constellation operated by Airbus Defence and Space.
- Following the success of Europe's first rideshare mission last September, Vega Flight 18 (VV18) will deploy five auxiliary payloads using the advanced SSMS (Small Spacecraft Mission Service) structure.

The liftoff will be performed from the Vega Launch Complex (ELV) in Kourou, French Guiana (South America).

## Launch time



Liftoff is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 28, 2021** at precisely:

- > **9:50 p.m.**, in Washington, D.C.,
- > **10:50 p.m.**, in Kourou,
- > **01:50** Universal Time (UTC) on April 29,
- > **03:50 a.m.**, in Paris on April 29,
- > **09:50 a.m.**, in Singapore on April 29,
- > **10:50 a.m.**, in Tokyo on April 29.

## 1. Telephotos

On this occasion two HD photos will be sent by e-mail through A.F.P., Reuters, EPA, Associated Press, kyodo press service. In Europe via A.F.P photo, ANP, ANSA, APA, Belga, DPA, EFE, Keystone, Lusa, Pressebild and in Japan via JIJI press.

- 1.1 Vega launch vehicle on the ELV launch pad (at sunset), **at 08:00 p.m. Kourou time, on April 27, 2021 (i.e. 23:00 UTC).**
- 1.2 Lift off of the Vega, **starting from H0+1 hour 30min on April 29, 2021, at 00:20 a.m., Kourou time (i.e. 03:20 a.m. UTC on April 29 2021).**

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### Contact media

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### About Arianespace

Arianespace uses space to make life better on Earth by providing launch services for all types of satellites into all orbits. It has orbited more than 800 satellites since 1980, using its family of three launchers, Ariane, Soyuz and Vega, from launch sites in French Guiana (South America); Baikonur, Kazakhstan; and Vostochny Cosmodrome in Russia. Arianespace is headquartered in Evry, near Paris, and has a technical facility at the Guiana Space Center, Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana, plus local offices in Washington, D.C., Tokyo and Singapore. Arianespace is a subsidiary of ArianeGroup, which holds 74% of its share capital, with the balance held by 15 other shareholders from the European launcher industry.

[www.arianespace.com](http://www.arianespace.com)

## 2. Live TV and eurovision coverage

### 2.1 Live TV coverage:

Arianespace gives free of charge, for TV news purposes only, the live video transmission (or part of it) of the launch starting H0-8min.

The signal is at your disposal at EBU Geneva center and through the Eurovision Worldfeed service.

Contact EBU: [worldfeed@eurovision.net](mailto:worldfeed@eurovision.net) – hotline +41 22 717 2790.

The video transmission is available with French and English technical commentaries.

The signal is available only for TV and not for video streaming on the Internet. For any use of the video streaming, please contact Arianespace Brand and Communication team which will indicate the conditions to create a link with the Arianespace website ([arianespace.com](http://arianespace.com)).

### 2.2 Eurovision coverage:

A short topic of the launch will be available in the EUROVISION NEWS EXCHANGE network:

Contact at the Eurovision News in Geneva: [evn@eurovision.net](mailto:evn@eurovision.net)

Thanking you in advance for taking advantage of these EVN/EUROVISION topics.

A complete registered VT program in broadcast quality will also be available in the Eurovision Worldlink video on demand platform (<https://www.eurovision.net/worldlink/>) less than two hours after the end of the live VT broadcast.



## 3. Live on Internet



Live, high-speed, full-screen: Arianespace's video transmissions are now available on the company's responsive website and YouTube channel.

We invite you to enjoy the Vega launch VV18 on our live broadcasts and past programs. The webcast will start 8 min before liftoff:

- Arianespace website: <http://www.arianespace.com>
- Arianespace on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/arianespace>

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 <http://twitter.com/arianespace>  
 <http://twitter.com/arianespaceceo>

 <http://youtube.com/arianespace>  
 <http://instagram.com/arianespace>