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# Ariane 6 central core assembly complete

27/06/2022 2148 VIEWS 8 LIKES

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The central core of a test model of ESA's new Ariane 6 heavy lift rocket has been assembled for the first time in the purpose-built Launcher Assembly Building at Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana.

Ariane 6 core and upper stages were mechanically and electrically integrated to form the central core by teams from prime contractor ArianeGroup.

Next, the core assembly will be transferred to the Ariane 6 mobile gantry and lifted into a vertical position. Then, with the central core in place and connected to its launch pad, a series of tests will be carried out to ensure that the combined system is ready to receive a flight model of the vehicle.

These combined tests will be carried out under the responsibility of ESA and executed by an integrated ESA-ArianeGroup-CNES team.

Ariane 6 is a modular launch vehicle using either two or four P120C strap-on boosters, depending on mission requirements. The reignitable Vinci engine which powers the upper stage allows Ariane 6 to deliver multiple payloads to different orbits on a single launch. After payload separation a final engine burn deorbits the upper stage so that it does not become a debris threat in space.

Ariane 6 is a project-managed and funded by ESA. ArianeGroup is design authority and industrial prime contractor for the launcher system and CNES is prime contractor for the Ariane 6 launch base at Europe's Spaceport. ArianeSpace is the launch service provider of Ariane 6.