

August 2025  
Launch kit  
**VA264**



**Ariane 6**

**VA264**  
METOP-SGA1



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



[www.ariane.group](http://www.ariane.group)

# MISSION DESCRIPTION

Arianespace's fourth launch of 2025 will place the Metop-SGA1 satellite into Sun-synchronous orbit (SSO), with Ariane 6.

The launcher will be carrying a total payload of approximately 4.1 tons.

The launch will be carried out from Europe's Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana.



## DATE AND TIME:

Liftoff is planned on August 12, 2025 at exactly:

- 20:37 Washington D.C. time,
- 21:37 Kourou time,
- 00:37 Universal time (UTC), on August 13, 2025
- 02:37 Paris time, on August 13, 2025
- 09:37 Tokyo time, on August 13, 2025



## MISSION DURATION:

The nominal duration of the mission (from liftoff to separation of the satellite) is: 1 hour and 4 minutes.



## SATELLITE:

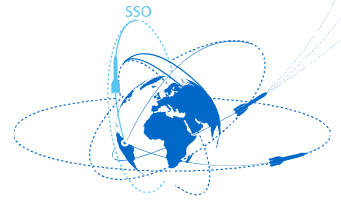
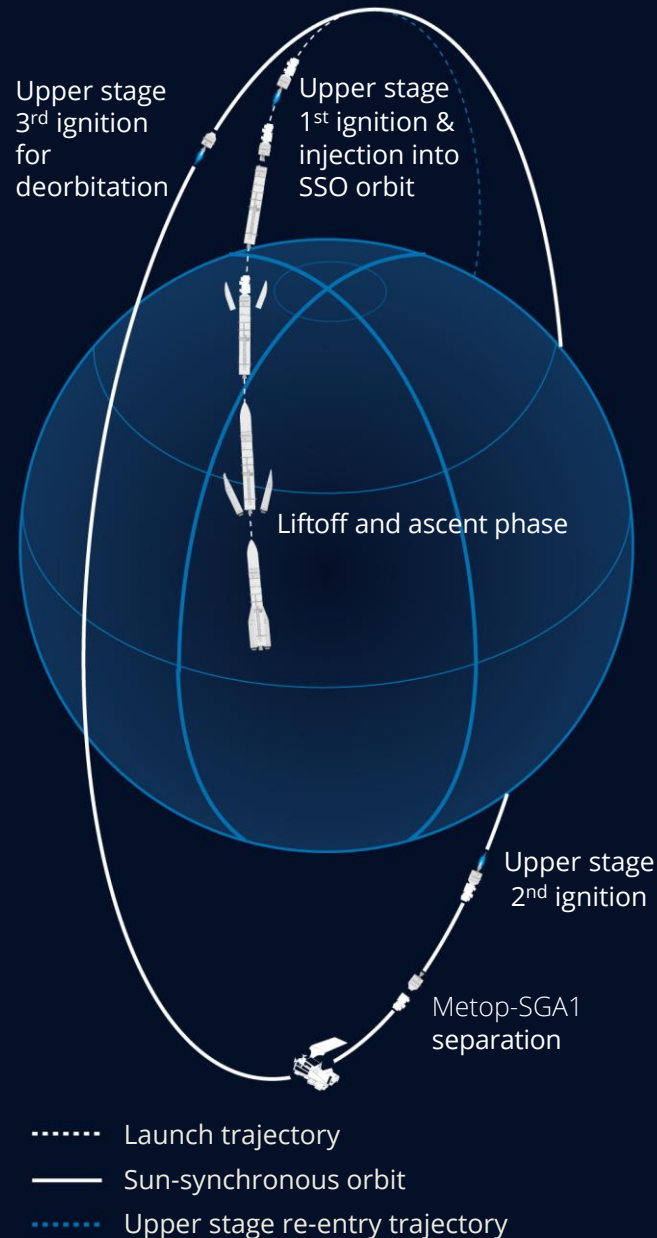
- Satellite: Metop-SGA1
- Customer: EUMETSAT



## TARGETED ORBIT:

- Sun-synchronous orbit (SSO) at an altitude of approximately 800 km
- Inclination: 99°

## STANDARD ARIANE 6 SUN-SYNCHRONOUS ORBIT (SSO)



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## PRESS CONTACTS

### Arianespace

Contacts available here:

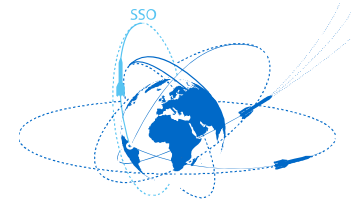
[newsroom.arianespace.com](https://newsroom.arianespace.com)

### ArianeGroup

Contacts available here:

[press.ariane.group](https://press.ariane.group)

# METOP-SGA1: THE FIRST OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF EUROPEAN POLAR-ORBITING WEATHER SATELLITES



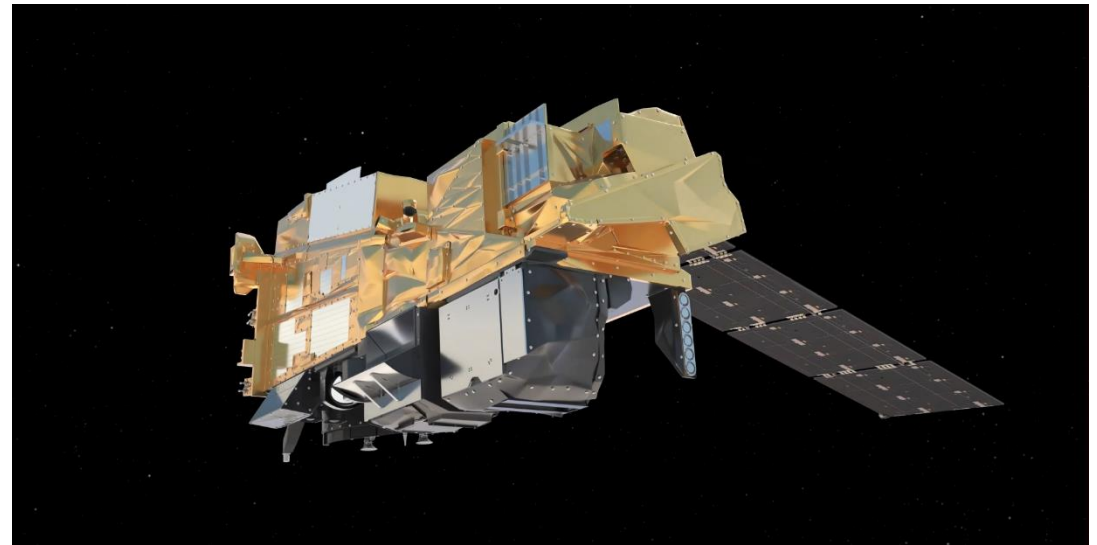
## DID YOU KNOW?

The VA264 mission will be the second commercial flight for Europe's new heavy-lift Ariane 6 launcher.

Its passenger, the **Metop-SGA1 satellite**, is part of EUMETSAT's next generation of polar-orbiting satellites. The EUMETSAT Polar System – Second Generation (EPS-SG) programme will bring global observations of weather and climate from polar orbit to a new standard.

EPS-SG will consist of three pairs of Metop Second Generation (Metop-SG) satellites operating in tandem in a sun-synchronous polar orbit and a comprehensive ground segment, equipped with the facilities required to control the satellites, acquire and process the data, and deliver products to users worldwide.

The satellite will take global observation of weather and climate from a polar orbit to a new level, providing high resolution observations of temperature, precipitation, clouds, winds, sea ice, aerosols, pollution, soil moisture, volcanic dust, and a multitude of other parameters.



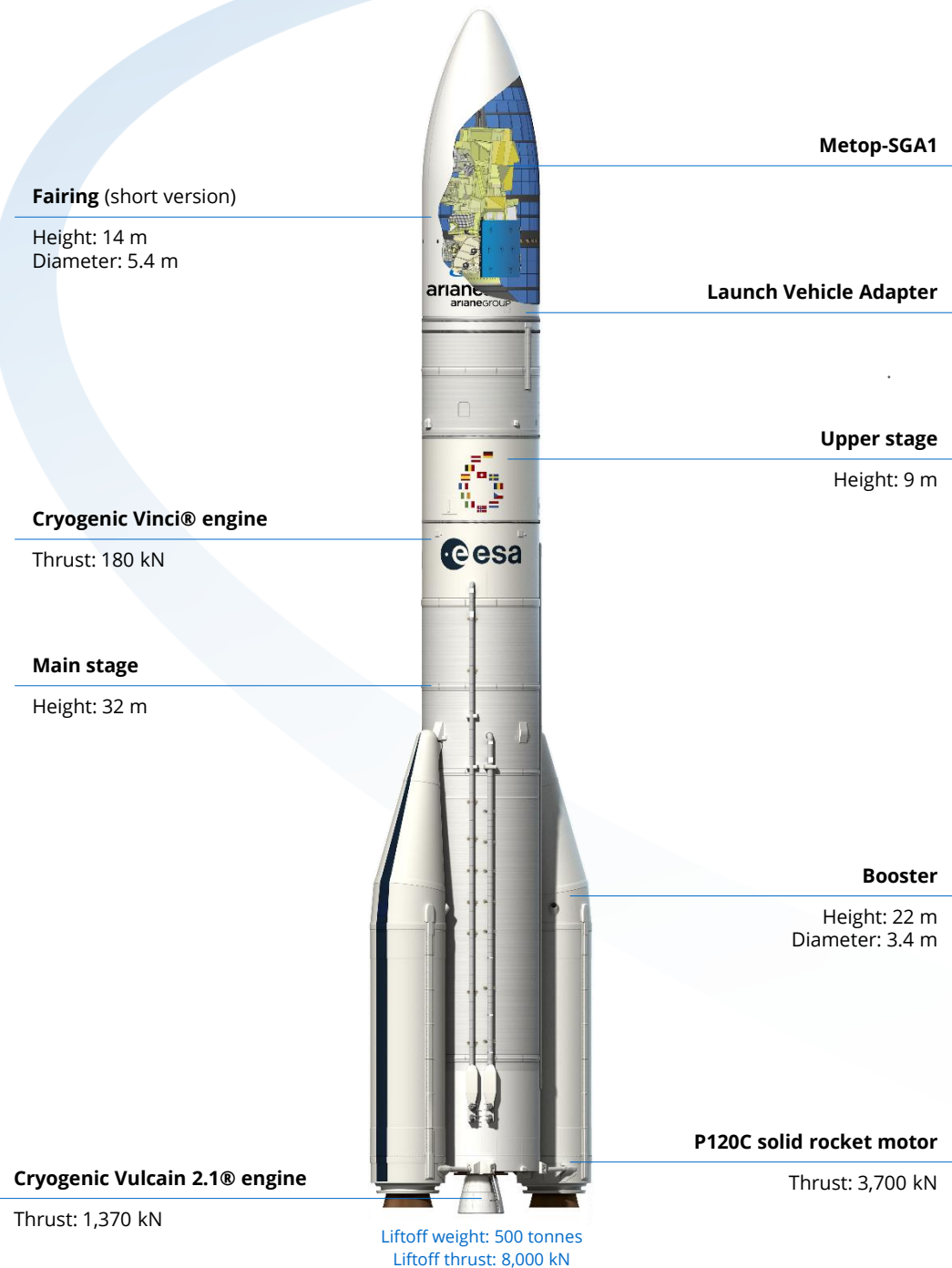
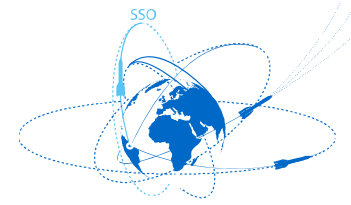
**The Metop-SGA1 satellite** will host a total of six atmospheric sounding and imaging instrument missions that will provide optical, infrared, and microwave observations data essential for weather forecasting, climate monitoring, and a wide range of other services and applications. Amongst its hosts, Metop-SGA1 will carry the new **Sentinel-5** atmospheric monitoring mission, part of the European Commission's **Copernicus** programme.

The Directorate General for Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS) leads the European Commission's activities in the European defence industry and European space sectors. The European Commission is the owner and programme manager of the EU Space Programme. Its activities include assessing current trends, identifying emerging challenges, and ensuring that the objectives of the Space Programme are aligned with broader EU priorities such as innovation, economic growth, and security.

The spacecraft was built by Airbus Defence and Space, under a contract with the European Space Agency, and will be operated throughout its lifetime by EUMETSAT, that will also distribute its data to users.

<b>SATELLITE</b>	Metop-SGA1
<b>CUSTOMER</b>	EUMETSAT
<b>MANUFACTURER</b>	Airbus Defence and Space
<b>MISSION</b>	Earth observation for weather and climate monitoring
<b>MASS</b>	4,040 kg
<b>PLATFORM</b>	Specific
<b>COVERAGE AREA</b>	Global
<b>LIFETIME</b>	Designed for 7.5 years

# ARIANE 6 LAUNCHER



## DID YOU KNOW?

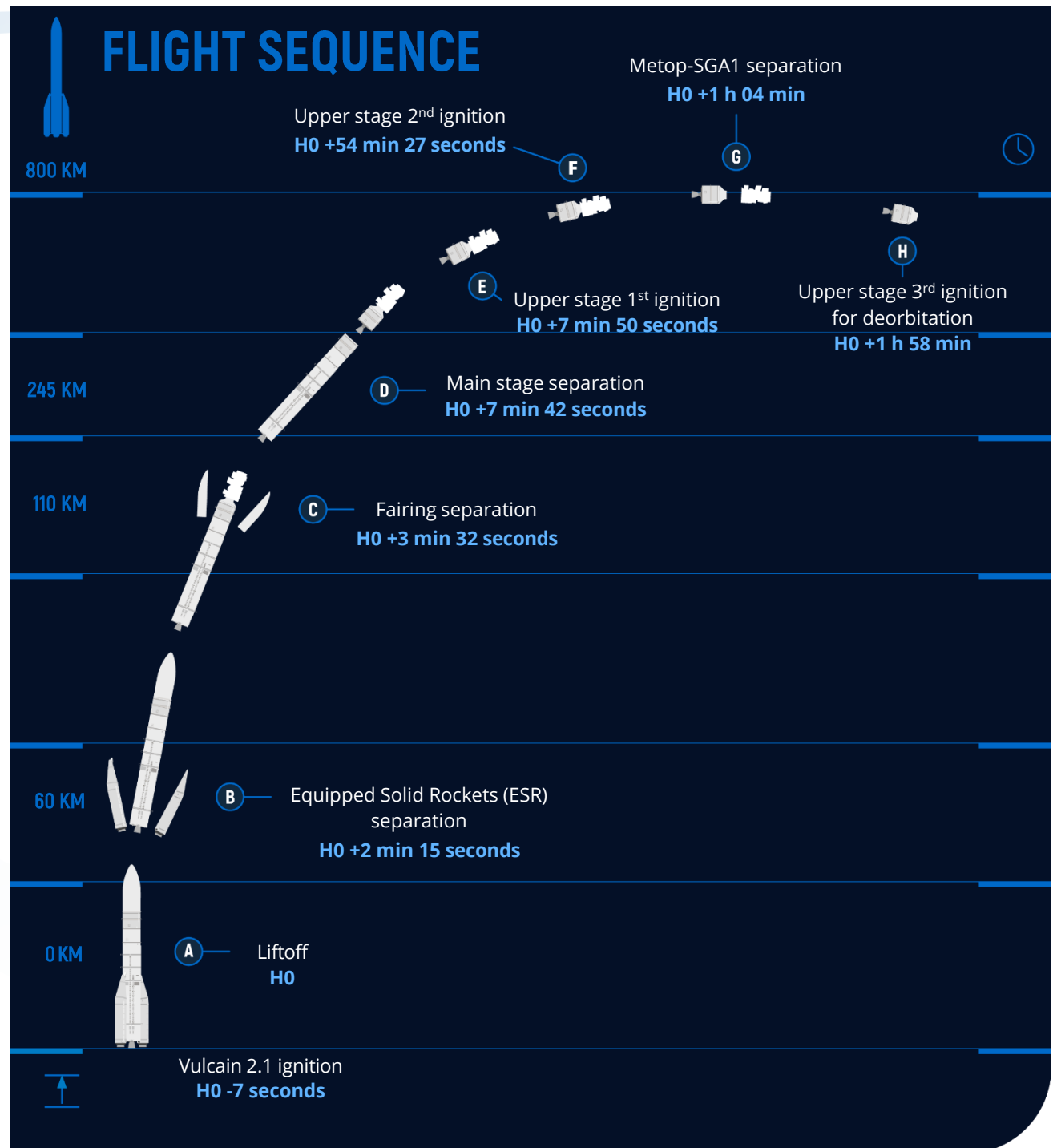
As lead contractor for Ariane 6 development and production, ArianeGroup orchestrates a huge European space industry chain in all aspects from management of launcher upgrades to supply of the flight software for each mission. This collaboration is the heart of Ariane 6's success.

This includes structures and equipment, propulsion systems, integration of the different stages and integration of the launcher at Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana. ArianeGroup coordinates more than 600 European companies in the Ariane 6 program, including around 350 SMEs.

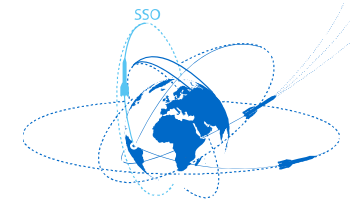
We are continuously improving the competitiveness of the Ariane 6 system, which is designed to be modular, versatile, and scalable.



# LAUNCH CAMPAIGN



# LAUNCH STAKEHOLDERS



## ARIANESPACE

Arianespace uses Space to make life better on Earth by providing launch services for all types of satellites into all orbits, since 1980. Arianespace is responsible for operating the new-generation Ariane 6 launcher, developed by ESA, with ArianeGroup as the prime industrial contractor. Arianespace will also operate the Vega C launches up until mission VV29, point at which Avio will become the sole operator and launch service provider of Vega.

Arianespace is headquartered in Les Mureaux, near Paris, and has a technical facility at the Guiana Space Center 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 Ariane and Vega European launcher industry, and ESA and CNES as censors

Press contact:

[newsroom.arianespace.com](https://newsroom.arianespace.com)



## ARIANEGROUP

ArianeGroup is an industrial company delivering critical missions for the space and defence sectors. With 8,300 highly qualified employees in France and Germany, ArianeGroup has unique expertise in access to space, covering the full spectrum of civil and military launch systems, including design, development, manufacturing, integration, flight preparation, operational readiness and end-of-life decommissioning. ArianeGroup is lead contractor for the Ariane 6 European launcher for the European Space Agency (ESA).

ArianeGroup also offers a broad range of space, defence and industrial equipment and services, both individually and together with its subsidiaries Sodern, Pyroalliance, Nuclétudes and APP

In the field of space launchers, ArianeGroup's subsidiary Arianespace markets and operates Ariane 6, and its subsidiary MaiaSpace develops and markets the reusable launcher Maia.

ArianeGroup, equally owned by Airbus and Safran, posted consolidated revenues of €2.5 billion in 2024.

Press contact:

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## ESA

ESA guides the development of Europe's space capabilities and makes sure that space contributes to a safer, more prosperous and sustainable future for its citizens. As an international organisation with 23 Member States, ESA coordinates its members' financial and intellectual resources to undertake ambitious programmes and initiatives that largely surpass the scope of action of a single European state.

ESA oversees the development of Europe's current and future space transportation services and solutions, including Ariane 6, Vega-C, Vega-E, Space Rider, and of technologies for transport in-, to-, and from-space, notably through the Future Launchers Preparatory Programme. On Ariane and Vega, ESA manages the overall programmes while European industry builds the launch vehicles with ArianeGroup (Ariane 6) and Avio (Vega-C and -E) as prime contractors and design authorities. ESA also fosters commercial space transportation services under private lead through initiatives like Boost! and the European Launcher Challenge. ESA Member States fund about two-thirds of the total cost of running and maintaining Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana.

Press contact:

[media@esa.int](mailto:media@esa.int)



## CNES

CNES (Centre National d'Études Spatiales) is the government agency responsible for shaping France's space policy and implementing it in Europe. Its task is to conceive and orbit satellites, invent the space systems of the future and nurture new services to aid us in our daily lives. Founded in 1961, it is the initiator of major space projects, launch vehicles and satellites, and the partner of choice for industry fuelling innovation. CNES comprises some 2,400 men and women with a passion for space working to open up new and infinite fields of applications in five core areas of focus: Ariane, science, Earth observation, telecommunications and defence.

The agency is a key player driving technology innovation, economic development and industrial policy for the nation. It also fosters scientific collaborations and has forged numerous international partnerships. France, represented by CNES, is one of the leading contributors to the European Space Agency (ESA).

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