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Next Ariane 5 mission set to launch Sky Muster™ and GSAT-18 satellites

Wednesday 4 October, Ariane 5 will lift off from the Guiana Space Centre (CSG), Europe's spaceport in Kourou, to place two new telecommunications satellites into orbit: Sky Muster™ II for Australian operator nbn and GSAT-18 for the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). This will be Ariane 5's fifth flight in 2016, its 88th flight in all, and the eighth launch this year from the CSG.

With a launch mass of 6,405 kilograms, Sky Muster™ II is a telecommunications satellite built by Space Systems Loral for operator **nbn**, a wholly-owned Australian Commonwealth company. Its mission is to help bridge Australia's digital divide by delivering broadband Internet services to regional and remote Australia. It will complement the services already supplied by Sky Muster™ I, extending coverage across Australia, including the Norfolk, Cocos, Macquarie and Christmas Islands. The satellite has an expected service lifetime of more than 15 years.

With a launch mass of 3,404 kilograms, GSAT-18 is a telecommunications satellite built by the ISRO Satellite Centre (ISAC) for operator INSAT (Indian National Satellite). GSAT-18 will provide telecommunications services for India and strengthen ISRO's current fleet of 14 operational telecommunications satellites. The satellite has an expected service lifetime of at least 12 years.

**The launch of Ariane 5 will be broadcast live on
ariane.cnes.fr/live via the Dailymotion video platform**

**Check out the Guiana Space Centre launch-campaign VA 231 photos
in the <https://www.flickr.com/photos/cnes/albums>**

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