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Soyuz launches SES-15 satellite from the Guiana Space Centre

Thursday 18 May, Soyuz accomplished a flawless launch from the Guiana Space Centre, Europe's spaceport in Kourou, orbiting the SES-15 telecommunications satellite for operator SES and marking its 17th straight success since 2011.

On its 17th flight from the Guiana Space Centre, Soyuz was tasked with launching the SES-15 satellite into geostationary transfer orbit for SES, the world-leading operator and the first to deliver a differentiated and scalable GEO-MEO offering worldwide, with more than 50 satellites in geostationary Earth orbit (GEO) and 12 in medium Earth orbit (MEO). SES provides satellite communications services to broadcasters, content and Internet service providers, mobile and fixed network operators, governments and institutions, as well as to businesses around the world.

With a launch mass of 2,302 kilograms, SES-15, from its orbital location of 129 degrees West, will enable SES to offer a broad spectrum of telecommunications services, notably for the aeronautical and maritime sectors, government and VSAT networks over North America, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. The satellite has an expected service lifetime of more than 15 years.

On the occasion of this launch, CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall commented: "It is very satisfying to see this new successful launch for Soyuz marking its 17th straight success from the Guiana Space Centre and its second into geostationary orbit. I would therefore like to warmly congratulate all of our partners' teams at SES, ESA, Arianespace, Starsem, European and Russian manufacturers, at CNES and of course in particular the teams at the Launch Vehicles Directorate and the CSG who developed and operate this launch system."

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