



Press Release

26 November 2019

PR167-2019

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Successful 250th Ariane launch Ariane 5 orbits TIBA-1 and Inmarsat GX5

Tuesday 26 November, Ariane 5 completed a flawless launch from Europe's spaceport at the Guiana Space Centre (CSG), placing into orbit two telecommunications satellites: TIBA-1, developed by Thales Alenia Space and Airbus Defence & Space for the Egyptian government, and GX5, built by Thales Alenia Space for Inmarsat. The launch was the eighth of the year from the CSG, the fourth mission in 2019 for Ariane 5 and the 250th flight in the Ariane series.

With a launch mass of 5,600 kilograms, TIBA-1 is a civil and government telecommunications satellite for Egypt developed by Thales Alenia Space and Airbus Defence & Space as co-prime contractors, with Thales Alenia Space acting as the consortium's lead partner. TIBA-1 will be owned and operated by the Egyptian government. The satellite has an expected lifetime of more than 15 years.

With a launch mass of 4,007 kilograms, GX5 is a mobile telecommunications satellite built by Thales Alenia Space for Inmarsat. Inmarsat's fifth Ka-band Global Xpress (GX) satellite, GX5 will be the most advanced in the GX fleet, which in less than four years has become the gold standard for globally available mobile broadband services. GX5 will deliver greater capacity than the entire existing GX fleet (GX1-GX4) combined and will support the rapid growth in customer demand for GX services in Europe and the Middle East, particularly for aviation passenger Wi-Fi and commercial maritime services. The satellite has an expected lifetime of more than 16 years.

On the occasion of the launch, CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall said: "As we prepare to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Ariane in less than one month's time, this latest success for Ariane 5 takes the total number of missions flown by Europe's launcher to 250. This remarkable achievement for spacefaring Europe is a testament to our launcher's performance, reliability and longevity. I congratulate and thank all of the teams to whom we owe this success for their professionalism and expertise, at ESA, Arianespace, ArianeGroup, across the European launcher industry, Thales Alenia Space, Airbus Defence & Space, our Egyptian partners and Inmarsat, and of course at CNES's Launch Vehicles Directorate and the Guiana Space Centre. BRAVO! 250 TIMES, BRAVO!"

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