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PRESS RELEASE

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NEXT ARIANE 5 MISSION
LAUNCH OF KONNECT (EUTELSAT) AND GSAT-30 (ISRO)

Thursday 16 January, Ariane 5 will be sent aloft from the Guiana Space Centre (CSG), Europe's spaceport in Kourou, to orbit two telecommunications satellites: EUTELSAT KONNECT, built by prime contractor Thales Alenia Space for Eutelsat, and GSAT-30, designed and built by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The launch will mark Ariane 5's 107th flight, its first mission in 2020 and the first of the year from the CSG. It will also be the 251st flight in the Ariane series.

With a launch mass of 3,619 kilograms, EUTELSAT KONNECT is the new all-electric satellite operating in K_a-band and the first to use Thales Alenia Space's Spacebus NEO platform, developed under the Neosat project set up in partnership by ESA and CNES. More robust, more modular, more powerful, more innovative and more flexible, this spacecraft bus is ideally suited to meeting operators' expectations in the constantly evolving telecommunications market and particularly well placed to serve strong demand for very-high-throughput satellite (VHTS) missions. EUTELSAT KONNECT will offer total bandwidth of 75 Gbps and by next autumn will enable the operator to offer Internet services for companies and individuals alike at up to 100 Mbps. The satellite is set to play a key role bridging the digital divide by bringing broadband Internet to 40 countries in Africa and 15 countries across Western Europe. In Africa, EUTELSAT KONNECT will also, through public Wi-Fi terminals, offer shared Internet access purchasable in the form of coupons via mobile phone. The satellite has an expected lifetime of 15 years.

With a launch mass of 3,357 kilograms, GSAT-30 will provide high-quality television, telecommunications and broadcasting services over the Indian mainland and islands. GSAT-30 is configured around ISRO's enhanced I-3K spacecraft bus to provide communications telecommunications services from geostationary orbit in C-band and K_u-band. ISRO is thus pursuing the use of space to help bridge the digital divide in the Indian subcontinent as part of its ambitious space programme, leveraging all types of space applications including navigation, Earth observation, telecommunications and broadcasts of educational programmes, while contributing to science research and planetary exploration. The satellite has an expected lifetime of 15 years

The Ariane 5 launch will be carried live on
https://ariane5.cnes.fr/live **via YouTube**

Check out the photos of the VA251 flight campaign at the Guiana Space Centre at
https://www.flickr.com/photos/cnes/albums

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