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PRESS RELEASE

ARIANE ACCOMPLISHES 170TH FLIGHT

Ariane 5 ECA completed a flawless launch from Kourou, French Guiana, today, orbiting the Spainsat satellite for Hisdesat and Hotbird 7A for Eutelsat.

CNES President Yannick d'Escatha expressed his satisfaction at *"the fine success of this 3rd flight by Ariane ECA since its qualification flight on 12 February 2005."*

Mr d'Escatha congratulated Arianespace's customers Hisdesat and Eutelsat and thanked them for their confidence in Ariane.

"This success demonstrates the expertise and professionalism of CNES's Launch Vehicles Directorate, as design authority for the Ariane series; of the Guiana Space Centre, as Europe's spaceport; and of all the programme partners, notably EADS, which delivered this first of 30 production launchers ordered by Arianespace on 10 May 2004."

He added: *"I would like to express my warmest thanks and heartfelt congratulations to all the teams who share the full credit for this success, which reaffirms our ambition and political commitment to push ahead with Europe's space programme."*

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