

**FRANCE AND COOPERATION IN SPACE
A CASE STUDY: COOPERATION WITH ESA ON THE
GUIANA SPACE CENTER**

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Launchers in Europe: an international cooperation from development to exploitation of the Guiana Space Center (CSG)

- Development of European launchers (Ariane and Vega families) in the frame of ESA programmes
 - ◆ ESA as an advanced mechanism of international cooperation
 - ◆ Important French contribution to the development of launchers
- Exploitation of launchers (Ariane, Vega and Soyuz)
 - ◆ Arianespace entrusted as Launch Service Provider: decided by ESA MS in the frame of an international agreement
 - ◆ Exploitation of Soyuz from the CSG in the frame of cooperation agreements with the Russian Federation

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Exploitation of the CSG: a long-standing cooperation between France and ESA

- International agreement between France and ESA: CSG Agreement 2008
 - ◆ Conditions under which land belonging to CNES can be put at the disposal of ESA
 - ◆ Conditions under which France guarantees availability of CSG for ESA launchers programmes
 - ◆ Responsibilities of the Parties (and CNES) concerning the running of CSG facilities
 - ◆ **Liability scheme and registration of space objects**

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Responsibilities of the French Government

- Responsible for the basic infrastructures in French Guiana

Responsibilities of CNES

- Authority responsible for the execution of the agreement
- Technical responsibilities (coherence of design requirements, planning and oversight of operations necessary to carry out the launch campaigns...)
- Safety mission

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Responsibilities and rights of ESA

- Access to the land and free use of ESA facilities
- Availability of the CSG launch range for its activities
- Right to take part in CNES decision-making process
- Financing of the maintain in permanent operational conditions of the CSG launch range

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Registration

- ESA proceeds with the registration of Ariane and Vega launchers in the frame of the development phase
- France proceeds with the registration of Ariane, Vega and Soyuz launchers in the frame of the exploitation phase

Liability: distinction between development phase and exploitation phase as well as between launchers

- Launches in the frame of an ESA development programme : ESA fully liable
 - Launches in the frame of the exploitation phase:
 - ◆ Ariane: France fully liable
 - ◆ Soyuz: France fully liable towards ESA + sharing with Russia
 - ◆ Vega: ESA liable 2/3 – France liable 1/3
- + impact of FSOA (Arianespace liable up to 60M€)

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Lessons learned

- For huge cooperative projects like the running of a launch base, implying space law issues (liability, registration): need for a binding intergovernmental agreement
- Improvement of the legal framework:
 - ◆ Before 2008: 3 separate agreements, with different duration periods
 - ◆ Since 2008: 1 single agreement, for a long period (2008-2020)
- The CSG Agreement does not solve all legal issues related to launches from the CSG (liability/registration related to satellites launched)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

