

- ❖ Read the following article about the launch of a spacecraft, Ariane-5

Launch of Ariane-5 Flight 160

10th April 2003

In the early hours of this morning, an Ariane-5 launcher headed for space from Kourou in French Guiana. Flight 160 was right on time and successfully placed its two payloads into orbit.

The first payload to be released into orbit, 27 minutes after launch, was the INSAT 3A satellite, weighing 2950 kg at lift-off. This satellite, designed and built by the Indian Space Agency (ISRO), contains a meteorological observation mission together with a search-and-rescue payload. It will also provide telecommunication and TV transmission services for India.

INSAT 3-A was closely followed 11 minutes later by the 1760 kg PanAmSat GALAXY XII satellite, designed to provide telecommunication links between continental USA, Alaska and Hawaii.

This morning launch is not the first time that ISRO and PanAmSat have taken advantage of the excellent location and facilities offered by Europe's spaceport. ISRO launched its first satellite from Kourou in 1981 and a PanAmSat satellite was one of the payloads successfully placed into orbit by Ariane-4's maiden flight in June 1988.

Flight 160 received the final OK on 5th April after a thorough launch readiness review of the launcher, its dual satellite payload, the launch infrastructure at Europe's spaceport and the down-range tracking network that follows the mission.

The next Ariane-5 launch is scheduled for early June this year, and is to carry the Optus C1 satellite for Australia's Optus and BSAT-2c for the Broadcasting Satellite System Corporation (B-SAT) of Japan.

- ❖ Drag and drop the answer with the question!

1. When was Ariane-5 launched?

It released its first payload The INSAT 3A satellite

2. What did Ariane-5 do first after lift off?

The word is 'maiden'

3. Which countries will use the Ariane-5 launch to launch their own satellites?

On the 10th of April 2003

4. What was the mission of the PanAmSat GALAXY XII satellite?

Australia and Japan will use the Ariane-5 to launch their own satellites

5. Which word in paragraph 4 has the same meaning as 'first'?

To provide telecommunication links between continental USA, Alaska and Hawaii