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Societa' : AVIO SPA

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Oggetto : Avio successfully launches Sentinel-3C and FLEX satellites with Vega C

Testo del comunicato

Vedi allegato



AVIO SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES SENTINEL-3C AND FLEX SATELLITES WITH VEGA C

Colleferro (Rome), 15 September 2026 – On September 14th at 10.21 PM Kourou time (01.21 UTC; 03.21 AM CEST on September 15th), Avio successfully launched the Copernicus Sentinel-3C satellite for the European Commission within the scope of a contract signed with the European Space Agency (ESA) and the FLEX satellites for ESA from Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana with a Vega C launcher. The satellites were released into Sun-Synchronous Orbit at an altitude of about 810 km with an inclination of 98.6°. The duration of the launch (from lift-off to separation of the last satellite) has been 116 minutes.

Sentinel-3C is the third satellite of the Sentinel-3 mission of the European Commission Copernicus programme, dedicated to monitoring the health of our planet by observing oceans, land, ice and the atmosphere from space. It will be jointly managed by ESA and EUMETSAT in routine phase, with the operations performed by EUMETSAT and the space component managed by ESA, and provides essential data for climate monitoring, weather forecasting, environmental protection and disaster response.

FLEX is the eighth Earth Explorer mission developed by ESA's FutureEO programme. It is designed to monitor the health of vegetation from space by detecting the faint fluorescence emitted by plants during photosynthesis, an otherwise invisible signal linked to plant activity. This data will support insights into agricultural productivity and provides a unique way to assess plant health and better understand how photosynthesis influences the carbon and water cycles.

The mission, called VV30, has been the second Vega C launch operated by Avio.

The FLEX and Copernicus Sentinel-3C satellites were both built by Thales Alenia Space, as the prime contractor, with the support of several European companies.

Giulio Ranzo, CEO of Avio said: *"Today's success confirms Avio as a reliable Launch Service Operator for Vega C launches. The launcher performed flawlessly, putting in orbit two strategic satellites for Europe, that demonstrate how space technologies have become essential in addressing the environmental and climate change challenges. The satellites will provide very important data to better understand our planet. I want to thank all our team for the outstanding job done and all our partners. We thank ESA and the European Commission for their confidence. We will continue to support European institutional missions for the benefit of its citizens."*

Avio is a leading international group engaged in the manufacturing and development of space launchers and solid, liquid and cryogenic propulsion systems. The experience and know-how built up over more than 50 years puts Avio at the cutting-edge of the space launcher sector and defense program. Avio is present in Italy, France, United States and French Guiana, employing more than 1,500 highly qualified personnel. Avio is the prime contractor for the Vega program and a sub-contractor for the Ariane program, as well as a leading solid rocket motor subcontractor for the design and manufacturing of major European tactical missile programs.

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