
PRESS RELEASE

Airbus Group and Safran To Join Forces in Launcher Activities

- Companies Agree To Reshape Their Space Launcher Business, Create 50-50 Joint Venture
- New Set-up To Increase Sector Competitiveness and Provide Customers With More Cost-Efficient Solutions
- Launch of Ariane 5 ME and Ariane 6 Programmes At the Core of the New Industrial Set-Up
- Signing of Joint Venture Transaction and Initial Start of Operations Expected Before the End of 2014

Amsterdam/ Paris, 16 June 2014 – Airbus Group (stock exchange symbol: AIR) and Safran (stock exchange symbol: SAF) are further strengthening their relationship to propose a new family of competitive, versatile and efficient space launchers, to serve both commercial and institutional needs.

In this context, both companies have agreed to create a 50-50 Joint Venture, with a key role for each shareholder in their legacy activities especially in France and Germany, combining expertise in the launcher systems from Airbus Group as well as propulsion systems from Safran.

The initiative capitalises on the preparatory activities undertaken during the last two years under the leadership of the European Space Agency (ESA) and the French Space Agency CNES, in line with the guidelines set by the ESA ministerial conference in November 2012. The current industrial initiative proposes:

- to further develop and accelerate entry-into-service of the Ariane 5 ME launcher as a logical evolution of Ariane 5, including an improved upper stage based on the Vinci engine; and
- to further develop the Ariane 6 launcher in a jointly agreed configuration, able to fulfil a range of missions as expressed by ESA, the National Space Agencies, Arianespace and satellite operators.

Both Airbus Group and Safran have been close and complementary partners in the launcher business, with an unmatched row of successful Ariane launches for more than 10 years. With this new partnership, for which a memorandum of understanding was signed, both companies strive to capitalise on the successful track record of Arianespace and the Ariane family by further increasing efficiency and competitiveness.

Both companies express their determination to continue to play a leading role in the space launcher business as well as to safeguard Europe's autonomous and reliable access to space. This year, ESA and its Member Nations are expected to take far-reaching decisions on current and next generation launchers.

"It's all about enhancing the competitiveness of our space launcher business going forward. The Ariane programme has been hugely successful during the last 30 years, but in order to remain relevant and competitive for the future we need a much more efficient industrial structure. This is what

the customers expect from us. Our agreement with Safran is the starting point of an exciting journey towards a more integrated, more efficient and hence more profitable launcher business in Europe”, said Tom Enders, Chief Executive Officer of Airbus Group.

“Among an increased number of actors worldwide and in addition to high technological challenges, European industry must provide competitive solutions for all space segments, among which launchers remain at the forefront. Today, we are at a defining moment to drive change as we have to be more agile, our products more affordable, and our structures more integrated. This new joint entity will be a major worldwide player in the launcher domain, with the aim to benefit from growth and better serve institutional as well as commercial customers”, said Jean-Paul Herteman, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of Safran.

In the first phase Airbus Group and Safran would create a joint programme company in order to contribute their respective civil programme contracts and major participations related to civil launcher activities. Subsequently, industrial assets would be contributed overtime in order to create a world class, fully-fledged jointly owned competitive company.

Airbus Group and Safran will submit the creation of the Joint Venture to all respective approvals required.

Signing of the first phase of the transaction and an initial start of operations of the Joint Venture are expected before the end of 2014.

* * * * *

Airbus Group is a global leader in aeronautics, space and related services. In 2013, the Group – comprising Airbus, Airbus Defence and Space and Airbus Helicopters – generated revenues of € 57.6 billion (restated) and employed a workforce of around 139,000 (restated).

Safran is a leading international high-technology group with three core businesses: Aerospace (propulsion and equipment), Defence and Security. Operating worldwide, the Group has 66,300 employees and generated sales of 14.7 billion euros in 2013*. Working alone or in partnership, Safran holds world or European leadership positions in its core markets. The Group invests heavily in Research & Development to meet the requirements of changing markets, including expenditures of 1.8 billion Euros in 2013. Safran is listed on NYSE Euronext Paris and is part of the CAC40 index.

* Sales in 2013 restated for the impacts of IFRS11 amounted to 14.4 billion euros.

Contacts Airbus Group:

Martin Agüera	+49-(0)175 227 4369
Matthieu Duvelleroy	+33-(0)629 431 564
Astrid Emerit	+33-(0)686 654 502

Contacts Safran:

Press : Catherine Malek	+33-(0)1 40 60 80 28
Analysts & Investors: Peter Campbell	+33-(0)1 40 60 35 96
Analysts & Investors: Frédéric Lucand	+33-(0)1 40 60 82 19