

Le Bourget, 22 June 2017

ArianeGroup signs a first contract with ESA to develop the future Prometheus engine

- **Airbus Safran Launchers, which will become ArianeGroup on July 1, 2017, today signed a first contract at the Paris Air Show with the European Space Agency (ESA) to develop the Prometheus demonstrator**
- **Prometheus is a low-cost reusable engine demonstrator running on liquid oxygen (LOx) and methane**
- **Its applications are designed to equip European launchers as of 2030**

The European Space Agency and Airbus Safran Launchers, the 50/50 joint-venture set up by the Airbus and Safran groups, which will become ArianeGroup on July 1, today signed, at the Paris Air Show, the first tranche of the development contract for the future Prometheus LOx-methane engine.

“This signing underlines our determination to prepare now for the future of Europe’s launchers beyond 2030, while pulling out all the stops to ensure an Ariane 6 first flight in 2020. Those two approaches based on continuous competitiveness and innovations are perfectly complementary”, explained Alain Charmeau, CEO of ArianeGroup. “The engine is indeed a vital element of the launcher. Preparing the technological breakthrough resulting in an engine about 10 times less costly to build than the current Vulcain®2 engine will allow us to remain in the global race for access to space I therefore thank ESA and its member States for their contribution to the development of tomorrow’s European technology.”

Prometheus is a demonstrator running on liquid oxygen (LOx) and methane for a reusable engine. Applications deriving from it will be able to equip future European launchers as of 2030.

The objective of this demonstrator is notably to produce an engine for 1 million euros, versus the approximately 10 million euros it now costs to produce a Vulcain®2.

The success of this technological challenge is based on a new design and on the extensive use of innovative methods and means such as 3D printing, predictive maintenance and digital control.

The Prometheus project was begun in November, 2015, with partnership investments between the French space agency (CNES) and ArianeGroup, but took on a truly European



AIRBUS SAFRAN LAUNCHERS

dimension in December 2016, at the last ESA ministerial level conference in Lucerne. Prometheus was then allocated a budget of more than 80M€.

The contract signed today also marked the addition of European industrial partners to the Prometheus demonstrator project, including Avio from Italy, GKN from Sweden, Safran AeroBooster from Belgium, and the German and French entities of ArianeGroup.

The first tests are scheduled for 2020 in Lampoldhausen (Germany), on the site of the German aerospace agency (DLR).

About Airbus Safran Launchers

The Airbus Safran Launchers group develops and supplies innovative and competitive solutions for civil and military space launchers, with expertise in all aspects of state-of-the-art propulsion technologies. Airbus Safran Launchers is lead contractor for Europe's Ariane 5 and Ariane 6 launcher families, responsible for both design and the entire production chain, up to and including marketing by its Arianespace subsidiary, as well as for the missiles of the French oceanic deterrent force. The Airbus Safran Launchers group and its subsidiaries enjoy a global reputation as specialists in the field of equipment and propulsion for space applications, while their expertise also benefits other industrial sectors. The group is a joint venture equally owned by Airbus and Safran, and employs nearly 9,000 highly qualified staff in France and Germany. Its estimated proforma revenues exceed 3 billion euros.

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