



# SPAFID CONNECT

Informazione Regolamentata n. 1771-68-2020	Data/Ora Ricezione 29 Aprile 2020 21:46:41	MTA - Star
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Societa' : Avio Spa

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Regolamentata

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Data/Ora Ricezione : 29 Aprile 2020 21:46:41

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Diffusione presunta

Oggetto : RE-OPENING OF THE GUIANA SPACE  
BASE AND VV16 LAUNCH DATE

*Testo del comunicato*

Vedi allegato.



## **GUIANA SPACE LAUNCH BASE TO RE-OPEN BY MAY 11 VEGA FLIGHT SCHEDULED BY MID JUNE**

*Colleferro (Rome) 29 April 2020* – Avio informs that CNES (the French Space Agency) and Arianespace have communicated today the gradual re-opening of the Guiana Space Center, starting from the 11 of May. The space center in Kourou had been closed at the peak of the COVID-19 outbreak on the 16 of March 2020. At that point the operations for the 16th launch of Vega, scheduled by the end of the same month, had been frozen while the launcher and the satellites on board had been secured.

Operations will now resume following the highest health&safety standards, including but not limiting to quarantine for all of the mission personnel before being involved in any activity in the base.

The personnel necessary for the return to flight of Vega (VV16 mission with around 50 satellites on board) will therefore be operative starting on the 25 of May, therefore allowing the completion of the mission by the middle of June.

Giulio Ranzo, CEO of Avio, commented: *"While in Italy all of our production, research and development activities continue during the COVID-19 outbreak, the re-opening of the space center in Guiana allows us also to quickly go back on the launch pad for the Vega mission number 16 with the innovative SSMS dispenser, which will take into orbit around 50 satellites in a single mission. The flight campaign in Kourou – continued Ranzo – will be performed following the highest security standards for our colleagues, like all of the activities in our facilities during this emergency."*

### **For more information**

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### **Avio**

Avio is a leading international group operating in the manufacturing and development of space launchers and propulsion systems. The experience and knowhow built up over more than 50 years puts Avio at the cutting edge of the space launcher sector, solid, liquid and cryogenic propulsion and tactical propulsion. Avio operates 5 industrial facilities in Italy, France and France Guyana, employing approx. 1,000 highly-qualified personnel, of which approx. 30% involved in research and development. Avio is a prime contractor for the Vega programme and a sub-contractor for the Ariane programme, both funded by the European Space Agency ("ESA"), placing Italy among the limited number of countries capable of producing a complete spacecraft.

Fine Comunicato n.1771-68

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