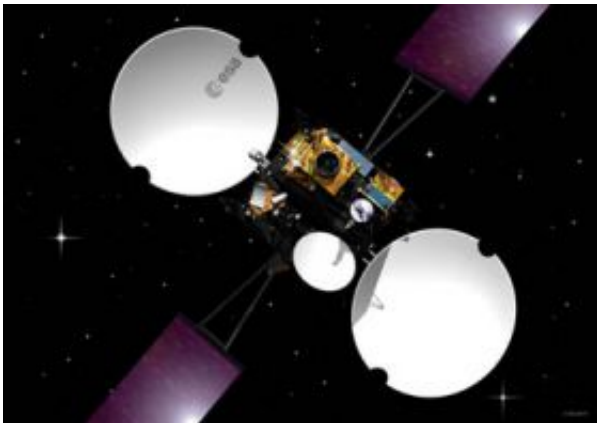


Artemis provides communications for Jules Verne ATV

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Carrying three payloads plus a number of experiments, Artemis (Advanced Relay and Technology Mission Satellite) has been developed to test and operate new telecommunications techniques. The L-band mobile payload will allow two-way voice and data communications via satellite, between fixed Earth stations and land mobiles - trucks, trains or cars - anywhere in Europe and North Africa. Artemis carries two payloads for communicating directly between satellites: a laser-optical relay terminal called SILEX, and a double S/Ka-band terminal called SKDR. Data will be received from low-Earth-orbiting satellites and then transmitted directly to Europe. Artemis was launched the 12 July 2001 from Europe's spaceport in Kourou from an Ariane 5 launcher. Credits: ESA - J. Huart

ESA's Artemis data relay satellite, controlled from Fucino (Italy) and with its mission control centre and Earth terminal located at Redu (Belgium), is providing communications between the Jules Verne ATV

and the ATV Control Centre in Toulouse (France).

Jules Verne ATV was launched from Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana at 05:03 CET on 9 March. First contact between Artemis and the ATV was established at 06:46, exactly on schedule.

Artemis communicates with Jules Verne, receiving telemetry and sending telecommands, each time the two spacecraft are within sight of one another. During every ATV orbit, there is around 40 minutes of continuous contact. Artemis will provide dedicated support to Jules Verne throughout the free-flying phase of its mission - up to the docking planned for 3 April. After docking, Artemis' data relay resource will be shared between ATV and ESA's Envisat Earth observation mission.

Artemis is in geostationary orbit over the Atlantic Ocean. It has three main purposes:

- the provision of voice and data communications between mobile terminals in remote areas of Europe and North Africa, as well as in the Atlantic
- performing a key role within Europe's EGNOS satellite navigation system by broadcasting enhanced GPS and GLONASS signals for use by civilian 'safety critical' transport and navigational services
- the provision of inter-orbit satellite communication using advanced S- and Ka-band radio links and laser technology

Artemis is operated from ESA's facility at Redu, which houses the spacecraft's mission control centre and a Ka-band ground terminal with a 13.5-metre dish antenna.

The task of communicating with Jules Verne is shared between Artemis

and NASA's Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System (TDRSS).

The inter-orbit communications services provided by Artemis are precursors to a proposed future European satellite data relay system.

Source: European Space Agency

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