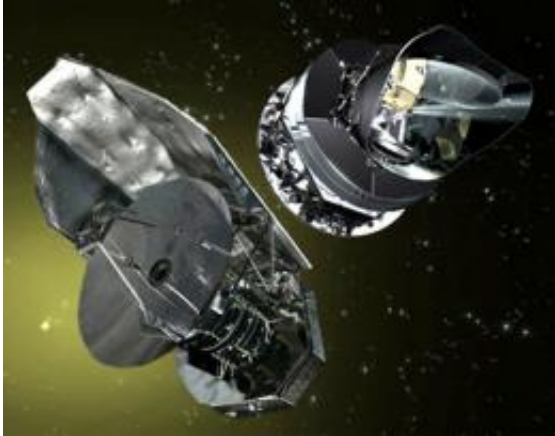


Herschel and Planck to lift off on 14 May

April 28 2009



Herschel and Planck satellites. Credits: ESA

(PhysOrg.com) -- Now that additional checks on the Ariane 5 ECA launcher have been completed, Arianespace and ESA have set the launch date of Herschel and Planck for Thursday 14 May.

In the meantime, the preparation of the two satellites for [launch](#) continues flawlessly at Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana. Herschel and Planck have already been fuelled with hydrazine. Planck's three-stage active cryogenic cooler, needed to keep the instruments at extremely cold temperatures, has been filled with helium-3 and helium-4. Herschel's cryogenic tanks are also being filled with superfluid [helium](#).

Planck was also integrated with the [Ariane 5](#) launcher, and is now

waiting to be covered with the SYLDA element. This structure is needed to both encapsulate Planck during launch and to support the upper passenger - Herschel.

Provided by European Space Agency ([news](#) : [web](#))

Citation: Herschel and Planck to lift off on 14 May (2009, April 28) retrieved 26 April 2024 from https://phys.org/news/2009-04-herschel-planck_1.html

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.