

Ariane rocket launches two telecoms satellites

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This file photo shows the Ariane-5 rocket taking off from its launch site in Kourou. An Ariane-5 rocket placed two telecommunications satellites into geostationary orbit, the 43rd successive success for the European rocket, Arianespace announced.

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The rocket blasted off from the European space centre at Kourou, French Guiana, at 2137 GMT Friday.

The 5.9-tonne [United Arab Emirates](#) satellite Yahsat Y1A built by Astrium and Thales Alenia Space will supply [high definition television](#) to the Middle East, Africa, Europe and South West Asia.

The Intelsat New Dawn satellite, weighing three tonnes at takeoff, will

offer a range of services including telephone and Internet to Africa. It was built by Orbital Sciences Corporation.

Arianespace president Jean-Yves Le Gall acknowledged that the [launch](#) was three weeks late, after an "aborted" attempt on March 30.

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