

Soyuz ready with Galileo satellites for milestone launch

October 14 2011



Credits: ESA - D. Ducros

International space cooperation will be highlighted in a historic event on 20 October: the launch of Europe's first Galileo navigation satellites on Russia's first Soyuz rocket to depart from Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana.

Liftoff is scheduled for Thursday, 20 October at 12:34 CEST (10:34 GMT, 07:34 local time).

The launch will be the first time that Russia's venerable Soyuz vehicle has ascended from European territory, adding a trusted workhorse to Europe's launchers family.

This Soyuz-2 version is the latest in the renowned family of Russian

rockets that began the space race more than 50 years ago by carrying both the first satellite, Sputnik, and the first man, Yuri Gagarin, into space.

Riding Soyuz will be the first two operational satellites in the Galileo constellation that will provide Europe with an independent global satellite navigation system.

Media can follow this important event live at one of the many [launch](#) events being organised around [Europe](#), via [satellite](#) for broadcasters or on the web.

Provided by European Space Agency

Citation: Soyuz ready with Galileo satellites for milestone launch (2011, October 14) retrieved 10 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-10-soyuz-ready-galileo-satellites-milestone.html>

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