

Arianespace to launch 12 satellites for EU system

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Arianespace has signed a deal with the European Space Agency to deploy 12 satellites and help speed up the creation of the European Union's Galileo navigation system.

Arianespace said in a statement late Wednesday that it will use three launch vehicles capable of carrying four satellites each. The launches are scheduled to start next year.

A total of 22 satellites will be deployed from the South American country of French Guiana, where Arianespace is based. Arianespace is the commercial arm of the European Space Agency.

Four satellites have already been launched for the Galileo system.

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