

Ariane 5's first launch of 2015

April 27 2015



On 26 April 2015, Ariane 5 flight VA222 lifted off from Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana and delivered two telecom satellites, Thor-7 and Sicral-2, into their planned orbits. Credit: ESA

An Ariane 5 has lifted off from Europe's Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana and delivered two telecom satellites into their planned orbits.

Launch of flight VA222 occurred on 26 April at 20:00 GMT (22:00 CEST, 17:00 local time).

Thor-7, with a mass of about 4590 kg and mounted in the upper position atop Ariane's Syllda dual-payload carrier, was the first to be released about 28 minutes into the mission.

Following a series of burns controlled by Ariane's computer, the Syllda structure encasing the 4365 kg Sicral-2 was then jettisoned. Sicral-2 was released into its own transfer orbit about six minutes after the first satellite.

Thor-7, operated by Norway's Telenor Satellite Broadcasting AS, will be positioned at 0.8°W in geostationary [orbit](#) to deliver high-performance Ka-band communications for the maritime sector. Thor-7 also has a Ku-band payload for broadcast and television services in Central and Eastern Europe. The satellite has a design life of about 15 years.

Sicral-2, operated by Italy's Telespazio, will be positioned in [geostationary orbit](#) to provide strategic and tactical telecommunications links for French and Italian military forces, as well as reserve capacity for other NATO nations. It has a design life of 15 years.

The payload mass for this launch was 9970 kg. The satellites totalled 8955 kg, with [payload](#) adapters and carrying structures making up the rest.

Provided by European Space Agency

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