

## Sentinel-2A sealed from view

June 10 2015

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Sentinel-2A being encapsulated within the half-shells of the Vega rocket fairing. Liftoff from Europe's spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana, is set for 23 June at 01:52 GMT (03:52 CEST; 22:52 local time on 22 June), on 6 June 2015 at Europe's Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana. Credit: ESA–M. Pedoussaut, 2015

As preparations for the launch of Sentinel-2A continue on track, the

team at Europe's Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana has said farewell to the satellite as it was sealed from view in the Vega rocket fairing. Liftoff is set for 23 June at 01:52 GMT (03:52 CEST; 22:52 local time on 22 June).

Since its arrival at the [launch site](#) at the end of April, Sentinel-2A has been through a series of stringent tests to confirm there was no damage during the flight from Germany.

These tests have made sure that everything is in good working order so that this new satellite will deliver the images to monitor Earth's vegetation and changing lands.

The delicate and risky task of fuelling the satellite took place last week, after which it was joined to the Vega adapter.

The protective covers, called 'red tag items', were then removed before it was encapsulated in the rocket fairing, which protects the satellite during the first part of the launch. The next step will be to transfer the 'payload assembly composite' to the launcher.

The Sentinel-2 mission is dedicated to Europe's Copernicus environmental monitoring programme.

Once operational, this new [satellite](#) will provide information for agriculture and forestry and for helping to manage food security. Satellite images will be used to determine various plant features such as leaf chlorophyll and water content.

This is particularly important for effectively predicting crop yields and other vegetation applications.

As well as monitoring plant growth, Sentinel-2 will be used to map

changes in land cover and to monitor the world's forests.



Sentinel-2A being encapsulated within the half-shells of the Vega rocket fairing.  
Credit: ESA–M. Pedoussaut, 2015

It will also provide information on pollution in lakes and coastal waters. Images of floods, [volcanic eruptions](#) and landslides will contribute to disaster mapping and helping humanitarian relief efforts.

Provided by European Space Agency

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