

AGENCY

LEDSAT at Europe's spaceport for integration onto a Vega rocket

28/07/2021 801 VIEWS 21 LIKES

ESA / Education / CubeSats - Fly Your Satellite!

Members of the student team LEDSAT have travelled with their satellite and its deployer to Europe's spaceport, the Centre Spatial Guyanais in French Guiana. This equipment will now be integrated onto a Vega rocket ready for launch later this summer!

The students were accompanied by a member of ESA's Fly Your Satellite! team. This programme gives young scientists and engineers the opportunity to design and build a fully-functional CubeSat satellite to be launched into orbit. The students behind LEDSAT are from Sapienza University in Rome. LEDAST Student team leader Paolo Marzioli shared some of his experience being at the Centre Spatial Guyanais: "Being here is an incredible experience and we are learning a lot from every little step we attend."

The team undertook several important final procedures before their precious hardware could be loaded onto the rocket. In particular, they inspected their satellite and its deployer to ensure that no damage was suffered during shipping from Brno, Czech Republic. A thorough review of the transport logs, combined with an Integration Readiness Review, took place, and it appears that LEDSAT is in excellent condition. The deployer's electrical connections to the launcher's onboard electrics were also thoroughly checked, and a final test was made of the door opening mechanism.

— The deployer with LEDSAT has now been integrated onto the launch adapter

Next, two CubeSats deployers, one of which houses LEDSAT, were installed onto each side of the launch adapter. They point in opposite directions so that the CubeSats are deployed into orbit away from each other to reduce the risk of

collisions.

The main passenger of the VEGA, an Earth observation satellite called Pléiades Néo 4, will be integrated in a couple of days on top of the launch adapter. Afterwards the fairing of the VEGA rocket will encapsulate the main passenger and its CubeSats companions – including LEDSAT. The whole assembly with launch adapter and fairing will then be moved to the launch pad and installed on top of the VEGA rocket. This will happen a few days before launch, giving time for a dress rehearsal before launch.