

Press Release

Ariane 5 Plus

IABG Involved in Further Development

IABG mbH in Ottobrunn near Munich is involved in the program initiated to enhance the performance of the European Ariane 5 launch rocket. The company, which has been successfully operating one of the ESA coordinated space test centres since 1972, is currently conducting comprehensive static and dynamic tests on the overall upper rocket stage and dynamic qualification tests on the heart of the new development, the new cryogenic upper stage ESC-A. As part of enhancement measures on Ariane 5 Plus, IABG is currently concerned with further detailed investigations. Its specific competence has been proven by IABG prior to this in the testing and qualifying of major structures of the rockets Ariane 2 to 4 and, in particular, also of the Ariane 5 which is already successfully being used.

The commissioning of IABG represents a significant contribution to savings in costs as the required wide spectrum of services surrounding the qualification of space projects is available in-house and thus expensive transporting between different test institutes can be avoided.

IABG has at its disposal well tested and, in their way, unique vibration facilities for major structures, a large acoustics laboratory for the simulation of the high acoustic loads occurring when rockets are launched, facilities for investigating the static and dynamic characteristics of complex structures as well as suitable halls and infrastructure facilities for the testing of major structures.

More than 120 satellites and major space components have been investigated and successfully qualified by IABG in over 20 years at the test centre in Ottobrunn, including, amongst others, numerous major components of the Ariane 5. Thus the test experts in Ottobrunn have not only established, using static and dynamic tests, the deformation and vibration response of the cryogenic main stage, the payload with its upper propulsion stage and the

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solid fuel auxiliary rockets and thereby contributed to the alignment of the computer models necessary for the flight forecast. In addition, they could also qualify in vibration load tests the most important major structures such as rocket engine and thrust frame of the main stage and the upper propulsion unit for the real conditions at the launch. The structure tests at IABG are thus an important contribution to the qualification of the operational readiness of the Ariane 5 launch rocket and its follow-up development Ariane 5 Plus, and thus ensure a commensurate European space transport capacity.