



Laying of the Cornerstone – Speech Secretary Mauro Dell’Ambrogio – 2nd September 2014 - RUAG Emme

Der Luft- und Raumfahrtkonzern RUAG hat am 2. September 2014 in Anwesenheit des ESA Direktors für Trägerraketen, Herrn Gaele Winters, Staatssekretär Mauro Dell’Ambrogio sowie weiteren Gästen aus dem In- und Ausland den Grundstein für eine neue Produktionshalle gelegt. Dieses neue Gebäude, welches auf dem Gelände der RUAG im luzernischen Emmen errichtet wird, soll die Werkzeuge und Maschinen für einen innovativen und kostengünstigeren Produktionsprozess von Nutzlastverkleidungen für die europäischen Trägerraketen Ariane und Vega beherbergen. RUAG (früher Contraves und Oerlikon Space) ist seit den Anfängen der europäischen Raumfahrt für die Entwicklung und Produktion von Nutzlastverkleidungen verantwortlich. Der neue Produktionsprozess, dessen Entwicklung von RUAG und der europäischen Weltraumorganisation ESA gemeinsam finanziert wird, soll die Position des Konzerns auf diesem Gebiet weiter stärken und sie auf den verschärften globalen Wettbewerb im Trägerraketenmarkt vorbereiten.

Staatssekretär Mauro Dell’Ambrogio richtete die folgenden Worte an die anwesenden Gäste:

On 2 September 2014 the Swiss aerospace company RUAG has laid down the cornerstone for its new production facility in Emmen, near Lucerne, in the presence of the ESA Director of Launchers, Mr. Gaele Winters, State Secretary Mauro Dell’Ambrogio and a number of distinct guests from in- and outside Switzerland. The new building will host the jigs and tools for an innovative and more cost-efficient production process for payload fairings to be used on the European space launch vehicles Ariane and Vega. Since the beginning of European activities in space RUAG (previously Contraves and Oerlikon Space) is responsible for the development and production of the payload fairings. The new production process, whose development is co-financed by RUAG and the European Space Agency ESA, will consolidate the position of the company in this area and prepare it for the increasingly competitive global launcher market.

State Secretary Mauro Dell’Ambrogio offered the following words during his address:

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my great pleasure to welcome you here in the region of Central Switzerland, the site of the origin of the Swiss Confederation, to celebrate with you the next step on our common journey in space, or better, into space, as we are on the European launch vehicles.

Today the Ariane 5 launcher is the most reliable launch vehicle in the world, thanks to continued efforts by ESA and its Member States as well as the European space industry, who together share the unique know-how and expertise of this technology. With the introduction of the Vega and Soyuz launchers, Europe has a family of launchers that is able to transport into space the entire spectrum of the institutional and commercial satellites on the market. The success by far outnumber the failures, and the recent failure of Soyuz at CSG to deliver Galileo satellites 5 and 6 on the nominal orbit demonstrated again that this business is very challenging, even though you all make it look easy. But it is clearly a shining example of European collaboration and a great success for ESA and its industry.

For Switzerland, independent access to space is a pillar of its national Space Policy. Consequently, we have supported the launcher programmes within ESA since its beginnings as a reliable partner because we consider our participation in these efforts as a strategic contribution to European access to space. We all know that independent access to space has a price, and Switzerland has not only invested in the development activities and has anticipated the future by investing in new launcher technologies, but equally importantly has always done its part in support of the launcher accompaniment programmes of ESA. These are clear signals that Switzerland is ready to continue to play an important role in European launcher sector.

Switzerland is proud of its industry that has not only demonstrated over many years its capability to deliver on time one of the critical systems of the launcher, namely the fairing, but also use its expertise and capacity to expand beyond Europe and to successfully offer its products on the world market. Swiss industry also has a strong foothold at the European launch base in French Guyana where it supports the processing of launcher elements and satellites as well the operation of the base itself. And finally there are a number of smaller companies that provide some critical technologies for the European launchers.

Today we see that the European launcher sector is at a crossroads. The international launcher landscape has evolved significantly over the last few years and is expected to continue in the near future, with new competitors emerging in the United States and a continuously uncertain geopolitical situation in Eastern Europe. At the same time the commercial satellite market is evolving rapidly, with new all-electric platforms and increased satellite masses. And finally European institutional programmes such as Galileo and Copernicus require new solutions for their launches. Therefore access to space for Europe has not only to be independent, but it has to become more affordable. We, ESA and its Member States, have to take decisions in the coming months on how Europe should react to these evolutions and challenges. But one thing is clear: Affordability requires competitiveness.

At the last Council of Ministers of ESA, which was held in 2012 in Naples and which I had the privilege of co-preside with my colleague from Luxemburg, decisions were taken to initiate the development of a new generation of the Ariane launcher, called Ariane 6, through a process that would have its focus on the needs of the users of the launchers and at the same time require competitive bids from industry on different launcher elements in order to reduce costs. As we speak, ESA and

industry are still working in the framework of this process, following the objectives that were defined by Ministers in Geneva and by the ESA Council earlier this year.

Since 2012 this process has already led to fruitful results, such as for certain launcher elements clear competition winners, which should now be included in the industrial team that will lead the development of Ariane 6 and which should retain Design Authority for these elements. Different launcher configurations are currently under evaluation, and different scenarios are being analyzed and discussed between ESA, industry and national agencies.

And last but not least a new governance scheme has to be elaborated for this new launcher as well. After all, European industry has indicated its willingness to take over more responsibility in the development and exploitation of this new launch system, which is a good sign. For Switzerland it is important that ESA retains its decisive role and strong expertise in order to interact with and challenge industry. It is obvious, but I should still mention that for Switzerland, the entire process will remain in the framework of ESA programmes decided by Ministers and for which ESA rules and regulations (for example with regard to IPRs) apply. As the development of a new launch system does not come as a Summer Sale, but will require significant funding from Member States, we as representatives of our governments owe it to our citizens to make sure that their tax money is used wisely and efficiently.

No matter what the results of this process will be, at the end the element of competitiveness will continue to be central for European launchers in the future. This means for industry at all levels to remain focused, and also to include into their strategic decisions the elements of efficiency not only in terms of development and production processes, but also in terms of management. Finally

it is also important that industry invests and co-invests as well. This new facility here is an excellent example for this approach.

Both RUAG and the Swiss Confederation have already invested in the project that will allow the production of fairings, the core business of RUAG in the launcher sector, in a more cost-efficient and sustainable way. It will create synergies towards a true multi-launcher strategy, which can be applied for all European-developed launchers and provides a perspective for entering new markets outside of Europe. Once again, Switzerland is anticipating the future and underlines its ambitions to remain a reliable partner, as it is the case in the past and present, and to continue play an active role in the European launcher sector.

As the Co-president of the ESA Council at Ministerial level I expect that the huge efforts made by all actors in the last two years will be leading to a clear decision to be taken at the next Ministerial Conference of ESA, to be hosted in Luxemburg in December this year. Europe, ESA and industry need it. As the Swiss Co-presidency I will promote a solution satisfying the actors and I am committed and count on all of you to support this effort. As demonstrated today, Switzerland is already doing its part. In cooperation with all of you, the success story that has started 50 years ago will continue!

Thank you for your attention.