

Press Release

SPACE SYSTEMS

ESA and Airbus to cooperate on the Bartolomeo platform

[@ESA](#) [@esaspaceflight](#) [@Space_Station](#) [@AirbusSpace](#)

Washington D.C., 24 October 2019 – The European Space Agency (ESA) and Airbus Defence and Space today signed a Statement of Intent on their common interest to use the Bartolomeo external platform for a limited number of scientific missions on the International Space Station (ISS).

ESA appreciates Airbus' efforts to initiate commercial utilization of the Bartolomeo platform and recognizes the investment that has been made in developing the Bartolomeo system and its Bartolomeo All-in-One Space Mission Service on the basis of the Partnership Agreement signed with ESA in February 2018. Airbus appreciates the support and guidance provided by ESA in the process and is excited about the increasing interest of European customers.

ESA recognizes that Bartolomeo is an attractive and competitive space platform solution and has substantial interest from its Member States as well as ESA scientific communities. Apart from the accommodation of the Multi-Needle Langmuir Probe (m-NLP) payload, ESA is looking to realise further missions starting with its:

- Exobiology Platform requiring a Single Slot with Zenith orientation and a return of the biologic samples through a payload airlock, and
- the SESAME material exposure payload from the French Space Agency CNES with several campaigns and sample returns.

In order to simplify the contracting process for all scientific ESA missions on Bartolomeo, ESA and Airbus are currently preparing a framework agreement which both partners agree to sign in November 2019.

* * *

About Airbus

Airbus is a global leader in aeronautics, space and related services. In 2018 it generated revenues of € 64 billion and employed a workforce of around 134,000. Airbus offers the most comprehensive range of passenger airliners. Airbus is also a European leader providing tanker, combat, transport and mission aircraft, as well as one of the world's leading space companies. In helicopters, Airbus provides the most efficient civil and military rotorcraft solutions worldwide.

Media contacts

Ralph HEINRICH	ralph.heinrich@airbus.com	+49 (0)171 30 49 751
Jeremy CLOSE	jeremy.close@airbus.com	+44 (0)7766 536 572
Guilhem BOLTZ	guilhem.g.boltz@airbus.com	+33 (0)6 34 78 14 08
Francisco LECHON	francisco.lechon@airbus.com	+34 630 196 993
Mathias PIKELJ	mathias.pikelj@airbus.com	+49 (0)162 29 49 666

This and other press releases and high resolution photos are available on: [AirbusMedia](#)