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Press release

VINCI to build Soyuz launch pad and ground infrastructure in French Guyana

VINCI Construction Grands Projets has been selected by the French space agency, CNES, to lead the consortium in charge of ground infrastructure and mechanical construction components of the Soyuz project in French Guyana. These projects are part of European Space Agency's "Soyuz in French Guyana" programme.

The contract, worth €135 million, includes the construction of a payload preparation facility, launch pad and launch control centre. Altogether, these represent 20,000 square metres of floor area and 86,000 square metres of roads on a 120 hectare site.

In addition to VINCI's local subsidiary, Nofrayane, the VINCI Construction Grands Projets consortium includes MT Aerospace (Germany) for metal structures and Clemessy (France) for low voltage electrical engineering, as well as Axima (Belgium), Krystal (France) and Intemann (Austria) for air conditioning, and APCO Technologies (Switzerland) for travelling cranes.

Work is scheduled for completion in 33 months in time for the launch of the first Soyuz rocket at the end of 2008.

VINCI has executed numerous contracts at Kourou since 1966, including several launch packages for Ariane rockets, a propergols (Ariane fuel) production plant, and the Ariane V payload (satellites) preparation package.

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