



## VEGA-C SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED BIOMASS SATELLITE FOR ESA

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**Colleferro (Rome), April 29<sup>TH</sup> 2025** – The Vega-C VV26 flight has successfully launched the Biomass satellite for the European Space Agency (ESA).

The rocket lifted off at 11:15 AM CEST from the Guiana Space Centre in French Guiana. After a 57-minute flight, it deployed the satellite into a Sun-synchronous orbit at an altitude of approximately 666 km. Vega-C was propelled by the first three stages for a little over seven minutes. The AVUM+ 4th stage performed two ignitions before releasing Biomass in the target orbit. ESA successfully acquired signals from the satellite approximately 14 minutes after separation.

Biomass is the first satellite equipped with a P-band synthetic aperture radar, capable of penetrating the forest canopy to measure biomass – the woody trunks, branches, and stems where trees store the majority of their carbon. The satellite is designed to provide vital data about the condition and evolution of Earth's forests, enhancing our understanding of their role in the global carbon cycle.

Giulio Ranzo, CEO of Avio, commented: *"Once again, Vega-C has demonstrated its key role in meeting Europe's launch requirements. We are proud to contribute to this significant mission that supports the health of our planet. I would like to thank all our partners and our team for the outstanding job done"*.

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**Avio** is a leading international group engaged in the construction and development of space launchers and solid, liquid and cryogenic propulsion systems. The experience and know-how built up over more than 50 years puts Avio at the cutting-edge of the space launcher sector and defense program. Avio is present in Italy, France, United States and French Guyana with 5 facilities, employing approx. 1,400 highly qualified personnel, of which approx. 30% involved in research and development. Avio is the prime contractor for the Vega program and a sub-contractor for the Ariane program, both financed by the European Space Agency (ESA) placing Italy among the limited number of countries capable of producing a complete spacecraft.

### For further information

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