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## **AVIO: SUSPENSION OF THE ACTIVITIES IN THE LAUNCH BASE AGREEMENT WITH TRADE UNIONS ON COVID-19 COUNTERMEASURES**

*Colleferro, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020* – Today the C.S.G. (Centre Spatial Guyanais) and Arianespace have announced that, following the prescriptions of the French Government aimed to fight the COVID-19 outbreak, the C.S.G. has decided to temporarily suspend the activities related to the launches from the base in Kourou.

Avio points out that it is in close contact with the local authorities in Guiana to guarantee the highest safety standards for its personnel at the base and for the Vega launcher, which is already integrated on the launch pad for the 16<sup>th</sup> flight expected by the end of March, being ready to resume the launch preparation activities as soon as possible.

Moreover, Avio informs to have timely implemented several countermeasures to the COVID-19 at its facilities in compliance with the law in order to mitigate the risks related to the ongoing industrial activities.

On these countermeasures, Avio has reached an agreement with the trade unions, following what foreseen by the Protocol shared by social parties at the National level on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2020, which includes the highest possible level of smart working for the activities possible to be performed from home or remotely, and also the encouraged use of holidays or paid leave and the other instruments allowed by the collective agreements.

### **For further information**

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**Avio** is a leading international group operating in the manufacturing and development of space launchers and propulsion systems. The experience and knowhow built up over more than 50 years puts Avio at the cutting edge of the space launcher sector, solid, liquid and cryogenic propulsion and tactical propulsion. Avio operates 5 industrial facilities in Italy, France and France Guyana, employing approx. 1,000 highly-qualified personnel, of which approx. 30% involved in research and development. Avio is a prime contractor for the Vega programme and a sub-contractor for the Ariane programme, both funded by the European Space Agency ("ESA"), placing Italy among the limited number of countries capable of producing a complete spacecraft.