



VEGA C SELECTED TO LAUNCH THE CLEARSPACE-1 ACTIVE DEBRIS REMOVAL MISSION

Rome 9 May 2023 – Vega C has been selected to launch the ClearSpace-1 spacecraft, an active debris removal mission. The launch is scheduled as soon as the second half of 2026. Vega C will put the spacecraft on a sun-synchronous drift orbit for commissioning and critical test. Later on, it will rendezvous with the target, capture and deorbit it through atmospheric reentry.

The target object is the upper part of a VESPA payload adapter, launched in 2013 with the second Vega flight, and placed in a “gradual disposal” orbit, in compliance with space debris mitigation regulations. The mass of the target is about 112 kg, resembling that of a small satellite.

“Avio is proud to contribute to this important mission through its Vega C rocket. This technology demonstration mission is a key element to further mitigate the risk of space debris especially in Low Earth Orbits. Avio is also fully committed in the respect of the space debris mitigation regulations” stated **Giulio Ranzo, CEO of Avio**.

For further informations:

Media relations contacts

Francesco.delorenzo@avio.com

Avio in short

Avio is a leading international group engaged in the construction and development of space launchers and solid and liquid propulsion systems for space travel. The experience and know-how 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 in Italy, France and French Guyana with 5 facilities, employing approx. 1,200 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 financed by the European Space Agency (“ESA”), placing Italy among the limited number of countries capable of producing a complete spacecraft.