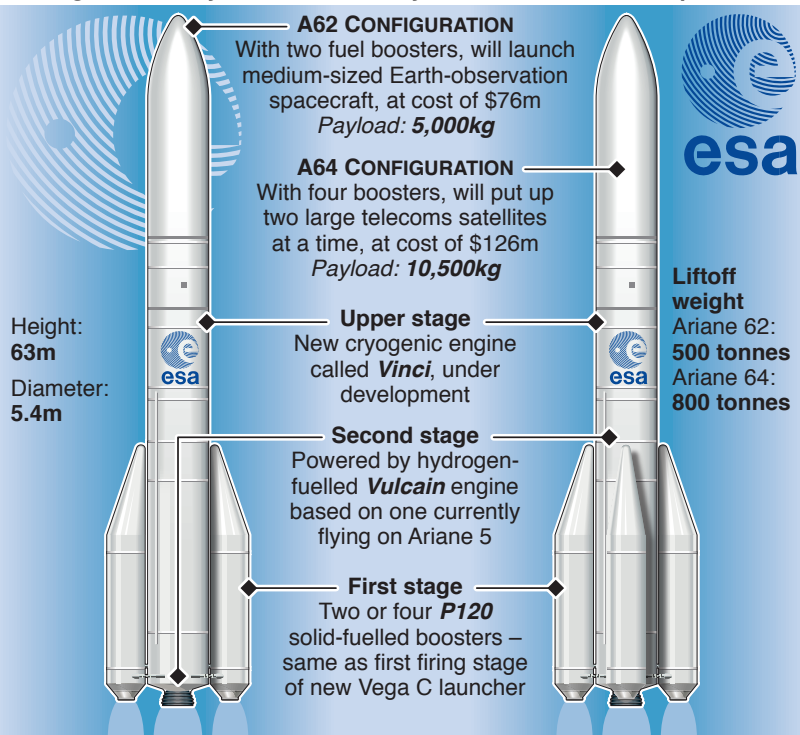


Europe's Ariane 6 rocket starts development

Europe's new Ariane 6 will be a modular rocket that can be tailored to launch one or two large satellites at a time into low-altitude perches and geostationary orbits favoured by commercial telecoms spacecraft



■ **To enter service:** Around 2020. Ariane 6 will replace Ariane 5 and Russian Soyuz vehicles currently operating out of French Guiana

■ **Launch rate:** 12 flights per year

■ **Integration:** Assembled horizontally – practice long used for Russian launchers and recently adopted by others

■ **Development cost:** ~\$4.6bn