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Odysseus Winners Observe Rocket Launch in French Guiana

- Registration for Current Cycle of Competition Now Underway -

Winners of the 2015-2016 Odysseus space science contest have travelled to French Guiana to witness the successful launch of an Ariane 5 rocket. The trip was just part of their reward for earning top honours at the Odysseus international finals in July. Equally exciting opportunities await young Europeans in the 2016-2017 contest cycle. Online registrations are now being accepted. Deadline for submitting completed projects is 31 March 2017.

Brussels, Belgium – 18 November 2016

“An Amazing Experience”

Witnessing a rocket launch at the spaceport in French Guiana was an unforgettable experience for the Odysseus prizewinners. **“It was amazing just to watch the transfer of the rocket to the launch pad”**, says **Alice Antonelli from Italy**. She won first place in the Explorers category of competition for university undergraduates. November 17 was the first time an Ariane 5 was used to orbit satellites for Europe’s Galileo constellation. **For Nelson Rebelo the trip was nothing less than “a dream come true”**. Nelson was part of a three-member team of high-school students from Portugal who submitted the top project in the Pioneers category. Next year, too, first-prize winners in both categories can look forward to visiting Europe’s spaceport in South America and earning coveted internships in the space industry.

Wanted: Young Europeans with spirit of discovery and interest in space science

Organized in multiple rounds (national, regional and international) the competition is open to participants from primary schools, secondary schools and universities. Teachers and professors are encouraged to get involved by organizing teams; mentoring is available upon request. Entries can be submitted in any of the EU’s 24 official languages. Detailed information – including a media kit and detailed instructions on how to submit an entry online – is available at www.odysseus-contest.eu.

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