

Young European Space Champions in French Guiana to Witness Ariane 5 Rocket Launch

- Representatives available for press interviews in multiple languages -

Kourou, French Guiana – 16 November 2016

A group of aspiring space scientists from Europe will see a dream come true Thursday: they'll be on hand at the spaceport in French Guiana to personally witness the launch of an Ariane 5 rocket. Travelling to Kourou to observe a major rocket launch is just part of their reward for earning top honours at this year's Odysseus Space Science Contest, a European competition for young people from 7 to 22.

Among the Odysseus contest winners attending the launch are **Alice Antonelli** from Italy who won first place in the Explorers category of competition (for university undergraduates). She's joined by **Carlota Fernandes, Diogo Goncalves and Nelson Rebelo** from Portugal who submitted the winning project in the Pioneers category (for secondary schools). Since winning the Odysseus competition all four have since been named European Youth Space Ambassadors for 2016-2017.

Wanted: young Europeans with a spirit of discovery and an interest in space science

Funded by the European Union, Odysseus challenges European youth to push the boundaries of their knowledge by discovering answers to fundamental questions on topics ranging from satellites and space probes to astrobiology and interplanetary travel. The ultimate goal to of the contest is to inspire young Europeans to get involved in space science and technology. **Registration for the next Odysseus challenge (covering the 2016-2017 academic year) is currently underway.** Detailed information – including a media kit and detailed instructions on how to submit an entry online – is available at www.odysseus-contest.eu.

Contact for Interviews:

Interviews with the Odysseus Space Contest winners in French Guiana can be arranged by calling Elena Tavlaki at +32 473 11 12 70 (email: elena@signosis.eu). The delegation will be observing the launch on November 17 from the Agami observation site.

