

Horizon Europe project



SALTO - reuSable strAtegic space
Launcher Technologies & Operations

www.salto-project.eu



A wave of exciting developments has recently taken place within the SALTO project. The full assembly and final preparations of Themis first stage demonstrator have been successfully completed at the ArianeGroup facilities in Les Mureaux, France.

Following this major milestone, Themis has been transported to its next destination: Esrange Space Center in Kiruna, Sweden owned and operated by Swedish Space Corporation.

Now safely positioned at its temporary home — Launch Complex 3 — Themis is entering a new phase of its journey. Final integration procedures will be carried out within a brand-new building.

These advancements mark a significant step forward in the path toward reusable launch technologies.



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Behind the scenes: Getting ready for the travel from France to Sweden



The assembly and final preparations of the Themis (T1H) reusable first-stage rocket for its travel from ArianeGroup premises in Les Mureaux, France to Esrange Space Center (operated and owned by Swedish Space Corporation) in Kiruna, Sweden.



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Themis arrives to Esrange Space Center in Kiruna, Sweden

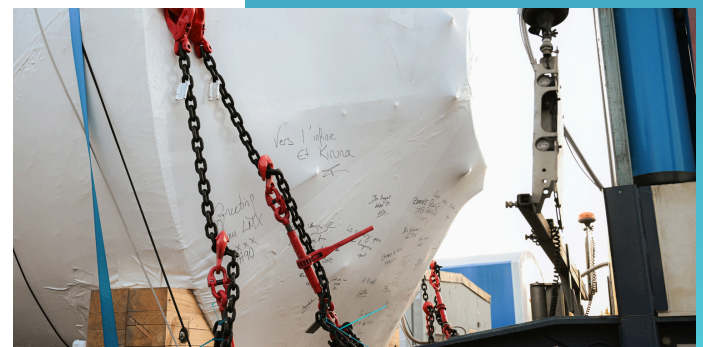
The arrival of Themis at the Esrange Space Center, owned and operated by the Swedish Space Corporation (SSC), marks a new chapter for the Horizon Europe project SALTO. The project will now first attempt to demonstrate reusable launch vehicle technologies in-flight, through a test-and-learn approach.

Now it has reached its temporary home at “Launch Complex 3” in Esrange. Over the coming weeks, teams from ArianeGroup and the Swedish Space Corporation (SSC) will finalize integration procedures inside a newly constructed facility tailored to support Themis operations.



The first flight of Themis will be a low-altitude vertical take-off and landing, referred to as a “hop test”. The data and experience gained during this short but critical maneuver will form the foundation for progressively more advanced test flights.

[Learn more](#)



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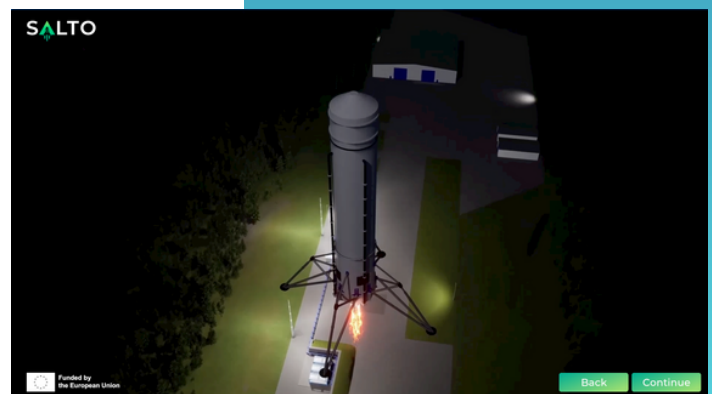
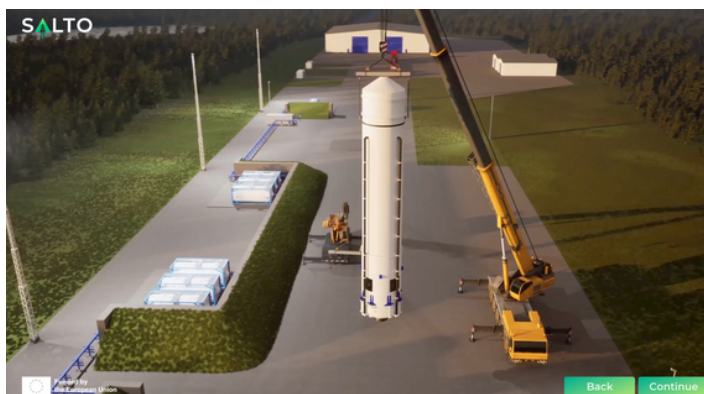
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SALTO project hop test 3D experience

The Horizon Europe project SALTO has launched a new 3D virtual experience, now available online. This interactive tool offers a clear and engaging look at the key steps of Europe's first reusable rocket demonstration at Esrange Space Center in Kiruna, Sweden.

Focused on the upcoming hop test — a major milestone to prove vertical landing capability — the experience is designed for the general public, students, and space enthusiasts. It provides an easy-to-understand visual guide to the mission, helping viewers explore how Europe is advancing reusable spaceflight.

Take a glimpse into the 3D experience



Within this 3D

- T1H arrival
- Work at Launch Vehicle Integration Building
- Verticalization of the T1H
- Landing legs
- Hop test

[3D experience](#)



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Highlights of the webinar

The webinar took place in March, 2025. In case you could not attend it we have published 3 articles on our website that capture the main messages of the 3 presentations.

Esrange Space Center: Europe's Arctic gateway to space

Covering over 5,000 square kilometers of recoverable land, the facility offers unmatched space for high-altitude experiments, engine tests, and balloon campaigns. It also hosts one of the largest satellite ground station networks globally, supporting missions for space agencies around the world—proudly boasting itself as “the world’s most versatile space center”.

[Read more](#)

A strategic vision for reusability

TEMIS is now completing the preparation of the T1H vehicle, the first European prototype of liquid oxygen-liquid methane, reusable first stage, equipped with one Prometheus® engine.

[Read more](#)

How SALTO advances reusable launcher technology

To bridge this technological gap, the T3 demonstrator has been introduced. It is specifically designed to build on the lessons from T1H while replicating the key dynamics of an operational reusable launcher. This structured progression is critical for reducing risk, validating complex flight systems, and bringing these technologies closer to operational readiness.

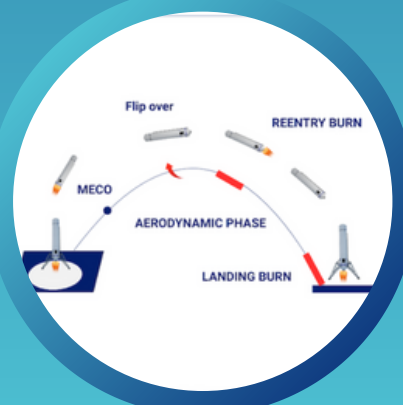
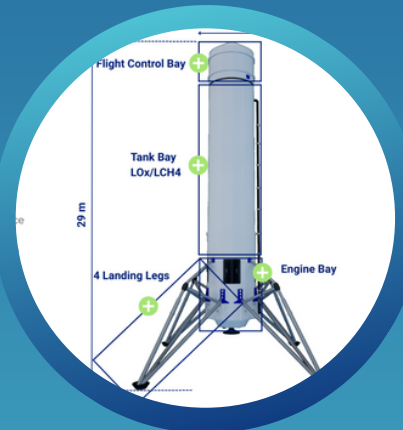
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