

Re: Rocket design up in air, says Marshall chief

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From: Ed Kyle (edkyle99_at_hotmail.com)

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John Schilling wrote:

>

> *Ariane V is not the right launcher for this decade, and it's going to*

> *take some less than subtle political pressure on the market to keep*

> *it alive. Ariane IV, single-manifesting the big birds and doubling*

> *up the commodity mid-sized satellites, would be a nice thing for*

> *Arianespace to have it its catalog right about now. Oops.*

>

I agree that Arianespace may have retired Ariane 4 too soon, but Ariane 5 might turn out to be more successful than common wisdom currently allows one to expect. Ariane 5 has a 35-payload backlog right now – more than any other single launch vehicle in the world.

– Ed Kyle