PINETTE P.E.I contributes to the success of the satellites Galileo’s launch

On the 12th of December, 2017, a rocket Ariane 5 ES has placed in orbit four navigation satellites Galileo with success. The dispenser on this Ariane 5 ES, platform in carbon fiber allowing the distribution and the cast off satellites’ clusters on a defined orbit, was integrated on a jig from Pinette P.E.I’s within the Ariane Group’s facility in Les Mureaux, France. Alain Lagoutte, in charge of the aerospace market at Pinette P.E.I’s, tells us a little more about this specific equipment.

What was the demand for this operation?
A.L: Ariane Group - ex Astrium- manufactures both elements that constitutes the dispenser. The company has launched a public tender for the design and manufacture of a jig able to integrate both dispenser’s components. These ones are made of sandwich carbon fibers for the upper part and honeycomb aluminum for the lower part. Four companies were in competition for this project. Thanks to its recognized expertise in assembly means, Pinette P.E.I won this tender.

How does this specially designed equipment work?
A.L: This integration jig permits the assembly of both dispenser’s components, the cables and the satellites’separator systems’ integration. Respecting some extremely accurate reference surfaces, both dimensional and geometric, it meets the dispenser expectations’ of coaxiality, concentricity, parallelism and perpendicularity required during the assembly.

How long does it take to Pinette P.E.I to provide this kind of integration bench?
A.L: The design study lasted two months. Followed by three months of manufacturing within our workshop. Finally, one month was dedicated to the assembly including commissioning, setting and testing in Ariane Group’s.

A few words about the future of relationship between Pinette P.E.I and Ariane Group?
A.L: Pinette P.E.I manufactures integration jigs for Ariane Group for more than thirty years: Galileo, Globalstar, O3B, Sylda Ariane 5, Spacebus, DGRS et other reinforcement structures dedicated to satellites. We hope continuing this momentum and maintaining Ariane group confidence by offering them even more innovative customized solutions.