

## FLYING WHALES & ArianeGroup announce the signature of a of a Letter of Intent



**Suresnes, January 3, 2023 - FLYING WHALES, the French company behind the LCA60T aeronautical program, and ArianeGroup, the European leader in the Ariane 5 and Ariane 6 space launch vehicles, have announced an agreement to study the use of the LCA60T rigid airship for space transportation.**

### **The LCA60T: an innovative solution for transporting space equipment**

ArianeGroup and FLYING WHALES announce the signature of a Letter of Intent. The agreement reflects the desire of both companies to intensify their discussions on the use of the LCA60T airship, the core of FLYING WHALES' pioneering and ambitious industrial project to revolutionize air cargo for the transport of heavy loads.

The agreement is designed to study possible uses for the LCA60T by ArianeGroup, in particular for transporting components for the Ariane 6 space launcher. It also calls for studies on the advantages of the FLYING WHALES solution compared with conventional transport methods, as part of the launcher's European and French Guiana logistics chains.

"We are very proud to announce the signing of this Letter of Intent with ArianeGroup. The LCA60T is an innovative, high-performance transportation solution for a number of industrial sectors, and meets the economic, logistical and environmental challenges the space industry has to face today today," said Sébastien Bougon, President of FLYING WHALES.

### **A new step in the alliance between FLYING WHALES and ArianeGroup**

This signature confirms the strong interest of the space sector for the FLYING WHALES solution. In September 2022, FLYING WHALES signed an agreement with the French space agency CNES (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales) to meet its needs for lifting and transporting sensitive exceptional loads in French Guiana.

Two years earlier, in October 2020, FLYING WHALES had already partnered with ArianeWorks, the ArianeGroup and CNES incubator, to study a concept for transporting the reusable stage of the Themis demonstrator by airship, off the coast of French Guiana. This is the first contract to reflect the close ties between the two companies over the past several years.

With this new agreement, FLYING WHALES and ArianeGroup have strengthened their alliance and reiterated their joint commitment to continue working together, with the aim of opening up new possibilities for transporting space equipment with a very small environmental footprint.

### **About FLYING WHALES:**

*FLYING WHALES is a French company headquartered in Suresnes (France). Created in 2012, the company is developing an ambitious and unique program thanks to its innovations and the quality of its teams and industrial consortium: the LCA60T, a rigid airship for heavy load transport with a carrying capacity of 60 tons. Originally designed to meet the needs of logging renewable wood resources in hard-to-reach areas, the LCA60T's unique hovering loading and unloading characteristics will provide solutions to numerous logistical and landlocked problems around the world, with a very low environmental footprint. This solution will allow, at low cost, to free itself from all ground constraints for the point-to-point transport of heavy or bulky loads. Finally, FLYING WHALES is also developing FLYING WHALES SERVICES, the operating company for the LCA60T.*

*For more information, please visit: <https://fr.flying-whales.com/>*

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