



Sneema
SAFRAN Group

Communiqué de presse - Press release

Sneema inaugurates its new plasma propulsion unit at Vernon plant

Vernon, February 22, 2007 – Alain Le Vern, President of the Haute-Normandie Region of France, and Joël Barre, Vice President and General Manager, Space Engines Division of Sneema (SAFRAN Group), today inaugurated the company's plasma propulsion unit at its plant in Vernon, close to Paris.

The Haute-Normandie Region is providing 1 million euros in financial support for the development of Sneema's plasma propulsion business. By transferring these operations to Vernon, Sneema's Space Engines division now groups all of its resources at a single site.

"The inauguration of this unit in Vernon marks a major step in the development of plasma propulsion at Sneema, technology used on both communications satellites and space probes. I would like to thank the Haute-Normandie Region for their support and their contribution to this new installation" said Joël Barre.

Plasma propulsion operations are being incorporated in the plant's current teams and premises dedicated to propulsion systems for the Ariane launcher. Special production resources are installed in the various production and assembly shops. A 400 square meter building in the test area has been totally renovated and already houses the first of three large vacuum chambers which will be used to test plasma thrusters.

Sneema has been developing, integrating and testing satellite propulsion systems for nearly 40 years, with the support of French space agency CNES and the European Space Agency (ESA). Building on its expertise in critical components, Sneema has provided chemical propulsion systems for a number of spacecraft, including the Spot, Helios and ERS remote sensing satellites. Today, Sneema is specialized in plasma propulsion, which it pioneered in Europe some 15 years ago, along with Russian partner EDB Fakel. Today, Sneema is the European leader in this market.

For more information on Sneema's plasma propulsion solutions, see our website : www.sneema.com

Sneema, SAFRAN group, is one of the world's leading manufacturers of aircraft and space engines, with a wide range of propulsion systems on offer. The company designs and builds commercial aircraft engines that are powerful, reliable, economical and environmentally friendly, along with military aircraft engines that have always delivered world-class performance. Sneema's plant in Vernon groups all the resources and skills needed to design, develop, produce and market liquid-propellant engines for launch vehicles, and plasma thrusters for satellites. One of the largest industrial sites in the Haute-Normandie region, it is a member of the regional aerospace association and is heavily involved in the local economy.

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