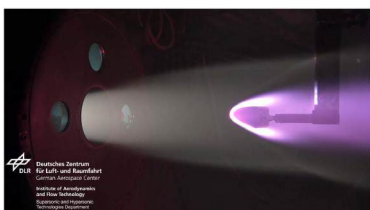




July 2026 Volume 2

Vortex-S Proposal Submitted to ESA

In May 2026, Dassault Aviation submitted a proposal to the European Space Agency (ESA) for the development and maiden **orbital flight of Vortex-S**. Designed to address the challenges of European sovereignty and the new space economy, Vortex-S is an industrial program bringing together major players in the European space sector: OHB System and MT Aerospace (Germany), APCO (Switzerland), SENER (Spain), and Space Cargo Unlimited (Luxembourg).



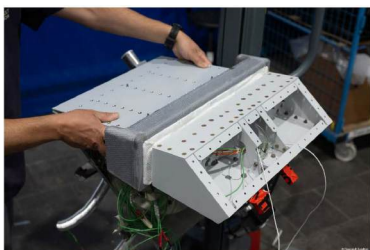
Material testing at DLR

The heat shield materials selected for the **Vortex-D** demonstration flight successfully passed several plasma wind tunnel tests at DLR in Germany. The tests lasted several minutes under high heat flux conditions representative of the atmospheric re-entry the vehicle will undergo. This critical phase causes a rapid rise in temperature on the vehicle's outer surfaces exceeding **1,300°C**. The test results validate the sizing of the thermal protection layers based on their location on the vehicle.



ILA Berlin 2026

The model of the **Vortex-S** system, comprising the reusable spaceplane and its service module, was presented for the first time on the **stand of OHB** at the **ILA Berlin** Air Show in June 2026. OHB, as a partner of Dassault Aviation on this program, is responsible for the service module as well as the vehicle's orbital functions.



Production begins

Assembly of the first **Vortex-D** components has begun at Dassault Aviation's flight test center in Istres. This initial assembly—connecting the control surfaces to the aircraft—is intended for hypersonic, very-high-temperature wind tunnel testing. The test is scheduled for the third quarter of this year.



Video

Check out the video of Vortex-S in orbit with its service module on [YouTube](#) and find more information at [Vortex.space](#)