



2012 CVA Presidency

Bremen has been a hub of space activity for over fifty years and today it is the location that offers the broadest range of space activities in Germany. Indeed, it is in Bremen that the upper stage for Europe's Ariane 5 launchers is produced and payload satellites are built. It was here that the European laboratory Columbus for the International Space Station (ISS) was developed. Bremen is also where the exploitation activities of the European contribution to the ISS are managed and where the Automated Transfer Vehicles (ATV) resupplying the ISS are assembled. Scientists from all over the world carry out experiments at the Bremen Drop Tower – a facility unique across Europe – conducting research at numerous associated institutes and facilities. Two higher-education establishments train students specialising in aerospace engineering, while some schools place special emphasis on their pupils studying space-related topics.

The Free Hanseatic City of Bremen is therefore delighted to be taking on the Presidency of the Community of Ariane Cities (CVA) this year, for the second time. 2012 will be an important year for the future of European space activities, since the ESA Council meeting at ministerial level in November will be required to take a number of far-reaching decisions.

As President of the Senate of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, I cordially invite you to experience (anew) with us the scientific and economic dimensions of space activity via the many events planned.

With this CVA Presidency, we would also like to give the Ariane Cities and their citizens a voice, enabling them to take part in discussion of space policy issues. Bremen eagerly looks forward to hosting the various CVA-related events over the course of the year in conjunction with the space industry.

Jens Böhrnsen, Mayor and President of the Senate of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen

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