Press release – June 2, 2026

Avio and Compagnie Maritime Nantaise sign a strategic partnership leading to a long term-contract

Compagnie Maritime Nantaise - MN will manage the AVIO VEGA C launcher transportation between Italy and Kourou for the next five years.

Building on over 15 years of collaboration, the two partners have decided to strengthen their long-term relationship and shape their future together by signing a bi-lateral strategic letter of intention and a contract for long term through Africa Global Logistics (AGL), the leading Logistics operator in Africa.

"This strategic partnership strengthens Maritime Nantaise's position as a key player in the maritime transport of space equipment," says Mathias Audrain, Commercial Manager of MN. "It fully aligns with the ambition of the Sogestran Group for its maritime activities: to establish itself as a reference player in high value-added transport."

The first operations will be carried out aboard the *MN Colibri*, a vessel with extensive experience in transporting space industry equipment. The company then plans to build a new vessel, specifically designed to meet the needs of transporting space equipment, such as satellites and launchers.

Presentation of the two companies

Avio is a leading international group engaged in the manufacturing and development of space launchers and solid, liquid and cryogenic propulsion systems. The experience and know-how built up over more than 50 years puts Avio at the cutting-edge of the space launcher sector and defense program. Avio is present in Italy, France, United States and French Guiana, employing more than 1,500 highly qualified personnel. Avio is the prime contractor for the Vega program and a sub-contractor for the Ariane program, as well as a leading solid rocket motor subcontractor for the design and manufacturing of major European tactical missile programs.

Compagnie Maritime Nantaise - MN is a specialized shipping company focused on industrial and niche transport, including aerospace and military equipment. Headquartered in Nantes (France), MN operates a fleet of four roll-on/roll-off vessels and a research vessel operating worldwide, alongside six passenger boats dedicated to transporting military personnel in the Brest harbour.

MN is a subsidiary of the Sogestran Group, a river and maritime shipping operator specializing in the transport and logistics of high-value goods, as well as the management of industrial service platforms across France and Europe. In 2024, the Group achieved €322 million in revenue and employs over 1,200 professionals.

Press contact:
Compagnie Maritime Nantaise - Alix Gay – Communication Manager of Sogestran Group – alix.gay@sogestran.com