

The new Novespace's Airbus A310 ZERO-G: the European

The first flight on board of the new Airbus ZERO-G operated by Novespace takes place on May 5th from Bordeaux Airport. This first campaign is a flying example of European coordination.



40 scientists selected by the European Space Agency (ESA), the French Space Agency (CNES) and the German Aerospace Agency (DLR) take off on May 5th 2015. They will do 31 parabolas and carry out experiments in weightlessness. Representatives from ESA, CNES and DLR will be present for the first flight in Bordeaux as well as Jean-François Clervoy, ESA astronaut and chairman of Novespace.

The biggest available area for weightlessness on board in the world

The Airbus A310 ZERO-G, which has the biggest available area for weightlessness on board in the world, is ready for its new adventure.



In its previous life, the Airbus ZERO-G, known as « Konrad Adenauer », was used by the German air force VIP fleet. Konrad Adenauer was one of the founders of the European Union and he along with Charles de Gaulle reconciled France with Germany. Originally built as a military plane, several chancellors have flown on board. This flying laboratory for scientific research is symbolic of French-German and European cooperation.

Novespace, a subsidiary of the French Space Agency (CNES) was created in 1986, to promote space technological transfers. These parabolic flights are mainly used for scientific research but are also used in the development of space equipment. Many of the experiments do not need to be carried out in space, as weightlessness time on board is sufficient for excellent results.

June 17th: maiden flight for weightlessness open to the public

Since 2013, Novespace and their partner Avico propose to non-professional weightless flights to include 15 parabolic manoeuvres creating 20 seconds of weightlessness each. 6 AirZeroG flights will take place before the end of this year (www.airzerog.com). The proceeds from these flights are reinvested for the scientific space campaigns. These public flights are also an excellent way to promote scientific and space culture.



The Airbus A310 ZERO-G, which is in excellent condition and has been perfectly maintained, has done 7500 cycles. The former « Konrad Adenauer » has been transformed, by Lufthansa Technics in Hambourg, from military aircraft to airborne test bed and sensing platform today.

The F-WNOV is now in the expert hands of testing engineers in Novespace for 20 years or more. The previous Airbus A300 ZERO-G can be visited in the Aviation Museum in Cologne (chancellor Adenauer's birthplace) having flown for 18 years in the colours of Novespace.

Press contact (photos and videos from maiden flight):

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About Novespace :

Novespace, a subsidiary of the French space agency (CNES), was created in 1986 with the aim of promoting microgravity as a scientific experimentation tool. More than 50 parabolic flight campaigns carried out from 1989 to 1995 on-board its Caravelle ZERO-G. Since the A300 ZERO-G entered service in 1997, Novespace has performed 112 parabolic flight campaigns, making a total of more than 13,000 parabolas and 70 hours of weightlessness. In June 2014, Novespace purchased an Airbus A310 from the German air force. Novespace organises an average of 6 parabolic flight campaigns per year, primarily for scientists selected by space agencies (CNES, ESA, DLR, etc.). Since 2013, Novespace and their partner Avico propose to non-professional weightless flights. 6 AirZeroG flights will take place before the end of this year (www.airzerog.com). For further information: www.novespace.fr