



Press Release

April 27, 2010

Mission 5 – Helen 2 space rocket avionics flight test

Aeronautics and Cosmonautics Romanian Association (ARCA), together with the Romanian Airclub and the Romanian Aeronautical Federation, will launch Mission 5, a forerunner test of the Helen 2 space rocket launch.

The flight will take place on 27 April at 07:00 AM Bucharest, with departure area near Hoghiz – Brasov. In this flight, a hot air balloon will raise the pressurized capsule of Helen 2 rocket's first stage 1 and the ELL (European Lunar Lander).

The main objective is to test in flight the avionics systems and live TV transmission.

The balloon crew is Mihai Ilie – pilot, Mugurel Ionescu - copilot and Dumitru Popescu, Helen 2 rocket equipments operator.

The flight objectives:

- to test the live TV transmission
- to test the telemetry systems, transmission and reception by radio and satellite
- to test the pneumatic systems for staging and parachute recovery system

Helen 2 space rocket will be launched shortly from the Black Sea

This flight is part of the Google Lunar X Prize Competition.

About ARCA

Aeronautics and Cosmonautics Romanian Association (ARCA) is a non-governmental organization, that promotes innovative aerospace projects located in Valcea County. ARCA joined the Ansari X Prize Competition in 2002 and since then it became one of the leading teams. ARCA developed two main projects: the Demonstrator rockets and STABILO. Demonstrator 2B rocket, equipped with world first composite materials reusable monopropellant engine ever to fly, was successfully launched on September 9, 2004 from the Cape Midia Air Force Launch Site on the Black Sea shore. STABILO, a two stages manned suborbital air launched vehicle completed three flights until now. The first stage is world largest Solar Montgolfier balloon and the second stage is a rocket powered manned spaceship. In 2006 Mission1 was launched at an altitude of 14700m. In 2007 Stabilo's Mission2 was launched at an altitude of 12000m above the Black Sea. The team received flight data via a communication satellite. The landing point was located at 30km (16.2miles) from the launch site.

In 2009, ARCA intended to test, Helen in Mission 3, the first Romanian space rocket.

Because of adverse weather, the test was postponed for the spring of 2010.

Helen rocket launch has a double purpose: to launch the first Romanian space rocket, and to test the technology for the Google Lunar X Prize competition.

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