

Europe's Latest Space Endeavors: Ariane 6, SMILE, and Rosalind Franklin Up

Space Exploration · Answer Key · 4 Questions

1. What was the primary payload of the Ariane 6 rocket's latest launch on April 30, 2026, from Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana?

- A) Galileo navigation satellites
- B) Amazon Leo internet satellites**
- C) Meteosat Third Generation imager
- D) ExoMars Rosalind Franklin rover

2. The joint European-Chinese SMILE mission, recently confirmed for a May 2026 launch, aims to study which of the following?

- A) Deep-space exoplanets
- B) Asteroid composition
- C) Earth's response to solar wind**
- D) Lunar water ice

3. What significant preparation was recently completed by the European Space Agency for its Rosalind Franklin Mars rover, ahead of its 2028 launch?

- A) Final assembly of the rover's drill
- B) Sterilization of its descent parachute**
- C) Integration with the launch vehicle
- D) Testing of its autonomous navigation system

4. Which European component played a crucial role in powering and sustaining NASA's Artemis II mission, which recently carried astronauts around the Moon?

- A) European Robotic Arm
- B) European Service Module (ESM)**
- C) Columbus laboratory module
- D) Automated Transfer Vehicle (ATV)