

## Alcatel wins ChinaSat 9 contract

### China/France

Alcatel Space has signed a contract with China Satellite Communication Corporation (ChinaSat) to design and produce a new-generation communications satellite, ChinaSat 9. This direct broadcasting satellite will enable ChinaSat to be the first state-owned Chinese company to provide satellite broadcast services throughout China.

The ChinaSat 9 satellite, based on the Spacebus 4000 C1 platform, will be fitted with 22 active Ku-band transponders for Broadcast Satellite Services (BSS), including eighteen 36MHz and four 54MHz channels. ChinaSat 9 will weigh about 4,500kgs at liftoff and offer life power of about 11kW.

Positioned at 92.2 degrees East, it will offer a design life of more than 15 years. This satellite will be launched by a Chinese Long March rocket. Alcatel Space will be in charge of the launch campaign, orbital positioning, in-orbit tests and delivery of a satellite simulator.

The contract was signed in the presence of the Chinese Vice Prime Minister in charge of

the Economy, Zeng Peiyan; the French Prime Minister, Jean-Pierre Raffarin; the President of ChinaSat, Zhang Hainan; the CEO of Alcatel, Serge Tchuruk; and the CEO of Alcatel Space, Pascale Sourisse.

During the contract signing ceremony in Paris, Serge

Tchuruk said: "The Chinasat 9 contract marks a new step forward in the collaboration that Alcatel and China started some 20 years ago in the satellites area. Direct broadcasting is an emerging market in China which will offer interesting opportunities in the years to come."

The co-operation between Alcatel and Chinese satellites operators began in 1984 with the supply of sub-assemblies for Chinasat 1, then with the delivery of the Sinosat 1 satellite in 1998, and finally with the upcoming delivery of the Apstar VI satellite. ■

### Alcatel Space revamps Spacebus platform designations

Alcatel Space has developed its well-known family of Spacebus geostationary communications satellite platforms for over 20 years. Their reliability is widely recognised, with 51 Spacebus satellites ordered to date, and 24 now in orbit. To reflect recent developments, Alcatel Space is revamping the designation system for this family.

The generic name Spacebus will be kept, since it is also the brand name. However, it will now offer more complete information in the rest of the designation:

- Spacebus 3000 or 4000,

depending on whether it is fitted with avionics using a 50-volt or 100-volt power bus;

- Two additional indicators showing the satellite's dimensions (depending on the payload): the letter 'B' or 'C' which indicates the cross-section, followed by a single digit from 1 to 4, indicating the satellite's height.

Alcatel Space is building increasingly powerful satellites - up to 6,000kg, 16kW of power and 80 transponders. In addition, these satellites are increasingly flexible

to meet requirements for all types of mission configurations (from C band to Ka band) and for all civil or military applications, from direct TV broadcast to broadband multimedia.

To keep pace with increasingly heavy satellites, Alcatel Space has also developed a new-generation avionics system, dubbed 'Avionique 4000', based on a 100-volt power bus to ensure high-power compatibility. This flexible, modular and integrated avionics system, including an onboard computer, is also the first spaceborne avionics for geostationary orbit featuring an integrated star tracker. ■

## PanAmSat signs Asian deals

### Regional

PanAmSat Corporation has announced the signing of a fibre interconnectivity agreement with ST Teleport, a leading full-service satellite communications solution provider based in Singapore. The recently signed agreement extends the reach of the PanAmSat global network from Singapore to California increasing the Company's ability to deliver its customers' programming via satellite and fibre to and from the Asia-Pacific and North American regions.

ST Teleport owns and operates a technical facility in Singa-

pore with existing ties to PanAmSat's Pacific Ocean region and Indian Ocean region satellites which are: PAS-2, PAS-4, PAS-7, PAS-8 and PAS-10. PanAmSat's customers are now able to utilise the fibre between Singapore and Los Angeles, with an additional link between Los Angeles and PanAmSat's Napa, California teleport.

The network extension from Singapore offers customers an alternative as well as a more direct route for the distribution of content to the 10,000 US cable headends that re-

ceive programming via PanAmSat. And, with programming transported from PanAmSat's teleport in Napa to the ST Teleport in Singapore by transpacific fibre, broadcasters and cable operators in the US will gain improved access to PanAmSat satellites in the Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean regions. This greater ease of access allows international broadcasters to more easily use PanAmSat's global network as a platform for the distribution of ethnic programming including sports, news and entertainment.

In separate news, PanAmSat also signed an agreement with Japan Broadcasting Corporation

(NHK) to deliver live sporting events and breaking news in high-definition (HD) format via the company's world-wide satellite and fibre network.

NHK will uplink news and sporting events across the US via mobile satellite news gathering (SNG) vehicles to PanAmSat's domestic satellite fleet. The high-definition signals will then be downlinked to the company's Atlanta teleport, where recently installed HDTV equipment will allow PanAmSat engineers to monitor the programming content for quality assuredness. PanAmSat will then provide the terrestrial fibre link to reach NHK's US gateway in New York City. ■



## Ariane and Soyuz to launch two Optus satellites

### Austral/French Guiana

Australian telecommunications carrier Optus has chosen Arianespace to orbit its D1 and D2 satellites. The satellites are scheduled to be delivered into orbit by Ariane and Soyuz launchers from the Guiana Space Centre in Kourou, French Guiana.

Optus D1 will be launched by an Ariane 5 launcher at the end of 2005, while Optus D2 will be launched by the first Soyuz to lift off from the Guiana Space Centre in 2007. Optus will also be the first customer to incorporate an alternate back-up launch vehicle as part of its launch programme.

This contract is a major landmark in Arianespace's

strategy to offer comprehensive launch services solutions, using both Ariane and Soyuz in French Guiana, as well as the Launch Services Alliance that the company has established with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Boeing Launch Services.

American satellite manufacturer Orbital Sciences Corporation (OSC) will integrate the two spacecraft in Dulles, Virginia, using the Star-2 platform. They will be positioned at 160 and 156 degrees East, respectively. The two Optus satellites will provide direct TV broadcast, Internet connection, telephony and data transmission services for Australia and New Zealand. ■

## Internet for Malaysian schools

### Malaysia

ViaSat Inc. is supplying a LinkStar broadband satellite communications network to Smart Digital Communications Bhd in Malaysia to provide high-speed Internet access to more than 1,500 schools.

The LinkStar Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) network is the first broadband satellite network of its kind in Malaysia, and once the remote terminal installation is complete — planned by the end of August — the network is expected to become the largest VSAT network in the country. The value of the contract for ViaSat is approximately US\$4 million. ■

## DVB-RCS test platform developed

### Global

Shiron Satellite Communications and VeriSat have announced the joint development of an advanced test platform for DVB-RCS systems.

Under the terms of the agreement, Shiron will supply VeriSat with a special edition of its DVB-RCS terminal, which will be integrated into VeriSat's Terminal Population Emulator (TPE) product.

The resulting platform will be the first test equipment to use a real Radiofrequency (RF) transmission to validate operation of a DVB-RCS satellite communication system's Network Control Center (NCC). ■

## NTL switches service to MEASAT-1

### Japan

Binariang Satellite Systems Sdn Bhd and NTL Asia Pacific have announced an agreement to use the MEASAT-1 satellite for distribution of the NTV7 Malaysian television channel.

"We are extremely excited to initiate our co-operation with NTL, one of the regions leading transmission service providers, by providing satellite video and audio distribution services going forward," said Paul Brown-Kenyon, MEASAT's Vice President (VP), Sales and Marketing. "Today, MEASAT supports a strong neighbourhood of television customers in Malaysia and across the Southeast Asian region. The addition of a prestigious channel such as NTV7 to our satellite neighbourhood is a vote of confidence in the technical capabilities of our satellite, as well as reinforces MEASAT-1's

position as the key video distribution satellite for Malaysia and South East Asia. By moving to MEASAT-1, we are also able to offer NTL and NTV7 an option to seamlessly migrate to the MEASAT-3 in 2005, providing a single platform to reach 70 per cent of the world's population from Eastern Europe/Africa in the West to Japan and Australia in the East" continued Brown-Kenyon.

James Sinclair, Director of Technology, NTL Asia Pacific, said: "MEASAT-1 provides the reliability, coverage, downlink power and overall package we need for NTV7. As we move towards providing further analogue and digital services to Broadcasters in Malaysia and across the Region we look forward to further co-operation with MEASAT." ■

## HBO Asia renews deal

### Regional

Loral Skynet has announced that it has renewed an agreement with HBO Pacific Partners to distribute the region's leading entertainment channels, HBO and Cinemax, across Asia through its television arm HBO Asia. In accordance with the long-term agreement, Loral's Telstar 10 satellite will continue to distribute HBO Asia's programming to thousands of cable outlets across Asia.

"We welcome this significant service renewal by HBO for the distribution of quality video broadcast services to its audiences in Asia," said Terry Hart, president, Loral Skynet. "Telstar 10 hosts a robust video neighbourhood over Asia, attracting the region's top programmers. With Telstar 18, Loral's coverage will stretch from Europe to Australia." ■

## Comtech EF Data contract

### Southeast Asia

Comtech Telecommunications Corp subsidiary, Comtech EF Data Corp., has received a follow-on order for US\$1.2 million of satellite communications equipment to be deployed in a large cellular network in Southeast Asia.

The order includes satellite modems and transceivers that will be used as critical components in the expansion of this service provider's Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) network. Including this order, the customer has ordered \$ 2.9 million to date of Comtech satellite communications equipment for this specific GSM cellular network infrastructure.

Integral to this operator's network is the deployment of Comtech's advanced, high performance Model CDM-600 satellite modems. ■



## FCC adopts satellite spectrum sharing plan

### US

The Federal Communication Commission (FCC), has adopted a spectrum sharing plan for Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite systems in the 1.6GHz and 2.4GHz bands. The FCC commented that the spectrum sharing plan will 'further its goal of efficient spectrum utilisation by increasing the number of providers offering services to consumers over the same spectrum, and will promote the deployment of more innovative services to consumers.'

In the 1.6GHz, also known as L-band, Mobile Satellite Service (MSS) operators with satellite systems that utilise CDMA and TDMA technologies will share

3.1MHz of spectrum at 1618.25-1621.35 MHz. Previously, only CDMA MSS operators had access to this spectrum.

In the 2.4 GHz or 'S-band', the Commission allocated the 2495-2500 MHz band to fixed and mobile except aeronautical mobile services, in order to provide additional spectrum to the 2500-2650 MHz band to accommodate the relocation of MDS channels 1 and 2.

The FCC also issued a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to explore whether CDMA and TDMA MSS operators feasibly could share an additional 2.25 megahertz of spectrum at 1616.0-1618.25 MHz. ■

## Gilat Satcom signs contract with Intersputnik to lease capacity on LMI-1

### Russia

The Intersputnik International Organization of Space Communications will lease four transponders of the LMI-1 satellite, located at 75 degrees East, to the telecommunications operator Gilat Satcom Ltd.

Gilat Satcom has leased capacity in C band to offer access to the Internet backbone via satellite, voice and data services in LMI-1 Beam A covering most of Africa and Europe, the Middle East, Russia and the CIS as well as the Asia-Pacific Region. Gilat Satcom's customer base in-

cludes several hundreds of remote terminals, mostly in Africa. Medium and small corporate users and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) of different Tiers avail themselves of a variety of Gilat Satcom's solutions ranging from plain access to the Web to more complicated projects such as international telephony, private networks or virtual private networks.

Also, Intersputnik and Gilat Satcom signed documents to meet Gilat Satcom's requirements to lease more capacity on the LMI-1 satellite later in the year. ■

## ILS adds fifth Americom satellite to 2004 launch schedule

### US

International Launch Services (ILS) is adding the launch of the AMC-16 satellite to its Atlas V manifest for the Fourth Quarter (Q4) of 2004, resulting in a total of five planned missions this year for a single customer, SES

Americom.

The satellite had been scheduled for launch on ILS' Russian Proton vehicle during the first quarter of 2005, under a contract announced last month to provide three launches for

SES companies. The contract included the option to switch the AMC-16 mission to ILS' Atlas rocket, built by Lockheed Martin.

The mission is planned for an Atlas V 521 configuration vehicle. The AMC-16 satellite is an

A2100 model being built by Lockheed Martin Commercial Space Systems, as are three of the other SES Americom satellites being launched by ILS this year. The others are AMC-10, AMC-11 and AMC-15. ■

## Globecomm Systems awarded contract

### Afghanistan

Globecomm Systems Inc has been awarded a contract valued at US\$14.7 million from the Min-

istry of Communication, Islamic Transitional State of Afghanistan to design, deliver, install and

maintain a modern hybrid broadband communications network. The contract is scheduled to begin immediately, and will be implemented and significantly completed within the Company's fiscal year ending 30 June 2005. The contract is fully funded through the World Bank.

The network will provide voice, data, Internet and video conferencing services to 38 ministries within the capital of Kabul and 31 provincial capitals throughout Afghanistan and provide an international gateway to the global Internet and

Public Switch Telephone Network utilising a combination of satellite communication links, microwave, wireless links and fibre connections. The contract also includes continuing maintenance and operations services, as well as supplying the related satellite capacity. Upon completion, the ministries and capitals throughout Afghanistan will be fully interconnected with a robust 21st century telecommunications solution bringing together the most modern technologies available in the marketplace. ■

### Globecomm Systems enters ethnic broadcasting video distribution business

Globecomm Systems Inc has entered the ethnic programming video business by launching a direct-to-home video platform into Europe the Middle East and Africa.

The video distribution platform offers a full range of video distribution capabilities, including program origination, video turnaround, advertising insertion, a full spectrum of state-of-the-art video equipment, complete billing and collection services and conditional access. ■

