

## Arianespace wins two new contracts

### Japan

Arianespace has announced two new launch contracts from JSAT, a leading operator in the Asia-Pacific region. These are the

twentieth and twenty-first launch contracts for Japanese commercial satellites signed by Arianespace. The contract con-

cerns the JCSAT-9 satellite and another future satellite.

JCSAT-9 is the fifth JSAT satellite to book an Arianespace

launch. The European launcher has already orbited JCSAT-1 (Flight 29), JCSAT-5 (Flight 103), N-Sat 110 (Flight 133) and JCSAT-8 (Flight 149).

JCSAT-9 is a digital communications satellite that will gradually replace N-Star a. Built on the Lockheed Martin's A2100 AX platform, it will weigh approximately 4,500kg at launch, and will be positioned at 132 degrees East.

An Ariane 5 launch is scheduled around the end of 2005, from Europe's Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana. ■

### Integral Systems to provide the satellite control system for JCSAT-9

Integral Systems Inc has been awarded a contract by Lockheed Martin Commercial Space Systems (LMCSS) to provide an EPOCH satellite control system for JSAT Corporation's

(JSAT) new A2100-based JCSAT-9 satellite.

In addition to the selection of the EPOCH product, LMCSS has selected Integral's Status and Control (S&C) System for monitoring and controlling the

JCSAT-9 ground station antenna and RF equipment. The S&C System will be provided through Integral's Newpoint Technology division of Salem, and it will be based on the COMPASS product. ■

## BTV World joins AsiaSat 3S

### Hong Kong/Bangladesh

Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited (AsiaSat) and the People's Republic of Bangladesh's national broadcaster Bangladesh Television (BTV) have announced the signing of a lease agreement for the use of C-band capacity on AsiaSat 3S to broadcast BTV World, a television channel for overseas service across the Asia-Pacific region.

This Bangla-language satellite channel will commence broadcasting on AsiaSat 3S from early March, providing daily broadcasts

of news and current affairs, drama, entertainment, cultural and educational programmes from Bangladesh that serve overseas audiences in the region.

"We are excited to announce the launch of our overseas television services on AsiaSat 3S. We chose AsiaSat 3S because of its excellent channel neighbourhood and strong audience penetration. AsiaSat 3S offers the region's most attractive platform for South Asian channels, as well as numerous other regional and international channels. In addition, the region-wide

coverage of AsiaSat 3S enables us to extend our reach to whole of Asia and Australasia with the latest news from our country, to introduce our culture and economy, trade and tourism to the rest of the world," said Mostafizur Rahman, Director General of BTV.

"We welcome BTV World onboard AsiaSat 3S. The introduction of this Bangla-language channel on AsiaSat 3S further strengthens our television bou-

quet for South Asia," said Peter Jackson, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of AsiaSat. ■

### Correction

In the article 'Buying a bird?' (*Satellite Evolution Asia*, January/February 2004, pages 49-52), the tables' headlines were inverted. ■

### AsiaSat buys fully-integrated satellite control system from Integral Systems

Integral Systems Inc is to provide a single, consolidated primary satellite control system to AsiaSat for its AsiaSat 2, AsiaSat 3S and AsiaSat 4 satellites.

The system will be based upon Integral Systems' EPOCH Integrated Product Suite (IPS) that has become the industry standard for consolidated operations of mixed fleets of satellites. This contract will deliver

AsiaSat an easy-to-use, fully integrated multi-satellite control centre using a single platform that provides complete real-time command and control, orbital analysis and manoeuvre planning as well as offline trending/analysis functions for all three satellites of the AsiaSat fleet. The new system will simplify AsiaSat's satellite operation, and in turn reduce operating cost. ■

### AsiaSat to offer back-up services to Star

AsiaSat is providing back up facilities and services to Star at AsiaSat's new Tai Po Earth Station in Hong Kong.

Under the terms of agreement, AsiaSat will provide facilities to house Star's back up broadcast and RF equipment for downlinking and emergency uplinking to AsiaSat 3S and other related services.

AsiaSat's Tai Po Earth Station is a new facility located at the Tai Po Industrial Estate in the New Territories of Hong Kong. This new earth station comprises five antennas, four

7.3-metre and one 11.3-metre. The station is designed for tracking and monitoring AsiaSat's satellites as well as for providing additional value-added services to AsiaSat's customers such as C-band and Ku-band traffic uplinking and back up services.

Star, a wholly-owned subsidiary of News Corporation, is Asia's leading multi-platform content and service provider. Over 40 distributed services in seven languages reach more than 300 million viewers across 53 Asian countries. ■

## ITU, India and UPU partnership helps Bhutan bridge the digital divide

### India

The Government of India, in partnership with two UN agencies, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Universal Postal Union (UPU), will help boost the delivery of e-post services to citizens in the least accessible parts of Bhutan with a package of equipment,

satellite capacity and training resources worth some US\$450,000. The resulting e-post service will allow people without computers in remote areas to send e-mail between post offices for printing and delivery.

India will help Bhutan's E-Shabtog venture by providing

instant connectivity to six more remote post offices that are not connected by the national fixed telecommunication network. Two of the stations, Laya and Lunana, are located over 5,000 metres above sea level, are snowbound for eight months of the year, lack of electricity and

paved roads and are a five to eight day walk from the nearest road. To support the provision of voice and low to medium-speed data services to the six locations, India will provide free of charge through its Department of Telecommunication:

- Six VSAT terminals in remote areas with a hub in Thimpu;
- Solar energy sources with about eight days' autonomy;
- Access/transponder capacity on INSAT system free for the duration of the project; and
- Training and maintenance. ■

## Alcatel Space to build Worldsat-3

### Regional

Alcatel Space has been awarded a contract to build and deliver, in orbit, a new telecommunications satellite for Worldsat LLC. This advanced, high-powered hybrid C-/Ku-band satellite, named Worldsat-3, will operate over the Asia-Pacific region.

The satellite's Ku-band payload has been designed to meet the particular requirements of Connexion by Boeing, Worldsat's key strategic customer. In addition, the C-band payload will be available to broadcasters, cable programmers, Internet service providers, government agencies, educational institutions, carriers and private networks for next generation communication and content distribution solutions. The in-orbit handover of the satellite will occur by the end of 2005.

Based on a Spacebus 4100 platform, Worldsat-3 (formerly AMC-13) will carry two communications payloads. The Ku-band payload features 20 high-powered, 138 Watt channels, uniquely arranged to cover all major airline corridors over the Pacific. The C-band payload features 18 high-powered, 80 watt channels permitting reception by sub-2m antennas.

From this single satellite, communications can be sent

from California to Bangladesh, from as far north as Alaska in the US and as far south as Australia and New Zealand, and all points in between. This hybrid satellite, positioned at 172 degrees East, will serve local, transcontinental and transoceanic customers

across the Pacific region, including Western North America, East Asia, the South Pacific, Alaska and Hawaii.

Worldsat-3 will weigh about 5,000kg at launch, with beginning-of-life electrical power of 13kW, and a design life exceeding 15 years. ■

### SES Global increases international focus with Worldsat

SES Americom has announced the formation of Worldsat LLC and a long-term agreement to provide services to Connexion by Boeing on Worldsat-3, a satellite featuring a customised Ku-band payload designed to address the unique requirements of broadband communications for the transpacific traveller.

Worldsat was created in 2003 by SES Global as a subsidiary of SES Americom. Worldsat provides customers with applications as diverse as mobile communications, broadcasting, Internet connections and data networks, as well as added value with unparalleled connections to the regional satellite fleets including SES Americom and SES Astra in

Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The newly-formed business unit has satellites currently operating at 108.2 degrees East (Worldsat-1, formerly AAP-1), 172 degrees East (Spacenet-4), 174.3 degrees West (TDRS-5), 47 degrees West (TDRS-6), and 37.5 degrees West (Satcom-C1).

In preparation for potential business opportunities in Japan by Worldsat, SES Americom, the new company's parent, obtained a Class 1 Telecommunications Business License from the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications (MPHPT), and has established itself as a licensed operator of an earth station located in Yamaguchi, Japan. ■

## Chinasat to use iPSTAR

### China

iPSTAR Co. Ltd., a subsidiary of Shin Satellite Public Company Limited, has signed a commercial agreement with China Satellite Communications Corporation (Chinasat). Under the terms of the agreement, Chinasat will provide satellite-based broadband service using iPSTAR ground technology alongside its own satellite capacity. The company has plans to deploy up to 2,000 user terminals in 2004 and 10,000 user terminals in 2005. iPSTAR will be used to provide a broad range of broadband applications and high speed Internet access such as E-government, corporate intranet and Virtual Private Networks (VPN), and Voice over IP (VoIP). Makin Petplai, Vice President (VP) of iPSTAR Co. Ltd. commented: "The Chinese market has enormous potential, so we are honoured to work with such a very capable partner like Chinasat to deploy the iPSTAR service throughout China. Chinasat's service deployment of iPSTAR solution is a major step forward in the progress of our iPSTAR programme, following the landmark agreement on frequency co-ordination made with the Chinese authorities late last year." ■

## NeoMagic's MiMagic 6 selected for demonstrations of satellite broadcast services

### Japan

NeoMagic Corporation has announced that the Mobile Broadcast Company (MBCO) will be using the MiMagic 6 Applications Processor to process the multimedia stream broadcast from the MBCO satellite.

MBCO, which has received investments from 72 major Japanese and Korean corporate

shareholders, will show this demonstration to Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) that are interested in producing devices, known as 'user terminals' for use with the MBCO broadcast service. The service will deliver video using the MPEG-4 and H.264 video standards.

MBCO has installed a net-

work of satellite repeaters across Japan to ensure the highest quality broadcast to mobile phones, automotive entertainment systems and a wide variety of mobile terminals.

The MBCO service will consist of video channels including sports, news, and children's programming and audio channels -

streamed directly to a variety of mobile terminals that can be used anywhere, including a car or train. The service will give users a vast variety of music at their fingertips, as well as video streams of real-time news and high-quality entertainment. The service uses 25MHz of bandwidth and operates in the S-band. ■

## Gilat enters agricultural market

### China

Gilat Satellite Networks Ltd will supply a hub and 300 Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) of its SkyBlaster 360 broadband platform, to China's Central Agriculture Broadcast and Television School (CABTS). CABTS has been nominated by the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture to run the National Farmers' Science and Technology Training Centre and has established the China Distance Education Network. CABTS will use the VSAT technology to provide interactive distance-learning applications to its municipal schools.

The outbreak of SARS epidemic raised the need to quickly deliver health education to farmers throughout the massive regions of China in order to prevent the spread of the deadly disease. Gilat, which has considerable experience in implementing rural satellite-based VSAT networks in China, is providing CABTS with a network consisting of a hub and 300 VSAT terminals, of which part of the equipment will be donated, in order to expand the current Interactive Distance Learning (IDL) education network already in use by CABTS. ■

## SingTel Optus buys additional 2,500 Skystar 360E VSATs

### Australia

Gilat Satellite Networks Ltd is to supply SingTel Optus, with an additional 2,500 Skystar 360E Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) and hub expansion equipment. The addition of VSATs to Optus' network reflects its plans to grow broadband services in Australia and New Zealand, particularly in rural and regional areas.

Optus operates two-way satellite services throughout Australia and New Zealand based predominantly on Gilat's 360 and 360E systems. The Skystar 360E, for example, is already being used by Optus to deliver distance learning services to small rural towns and isolated homesteads in New South Wales (NSW) and across the Northern Territory (NT). ■

## Space Imaging signs deal with Antrix

### India

Space Imaging has signed an agreement with Antrix Corp, a division of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), to extend its sales and marketing agreement through 2010.

The agreement gives Space Imaging exclusive rights to market and sell data from ISRO's Resourcesat-1 (IRS-P6) satellite worldwide outside of India. The agreement also includes the Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) 1-C and IRS 1-D, and Cartosat (P-5) satellites.

Space Imaging also offers international ground station access to the IRS constellation that includes Resourcesat-1, the most advanced remote sensing satellite built by ISRO that was launched in October 2003.

Resourcesat-1 is intended to not only continue the remote sensing data services provided by the older IRS-1C and IRS-1D satellites, but also offer enhanced data quality. Imagery can be used for environmental monitoring, agriculture, land use planning, and disaster management and assessment. ■

## Initial EGNOS navigation tests in China

### China

The European Geostationary Navigation Overlay System (EGNOS) is undergoing tests prior to service entry in the middle of the year in Europe. A test bed EGNOS in China enabled initial maritime navigation tests on the Yang Tse river. Carried out jointly by European and Chinese

teams, the tests were successful. Within this co-operation between the European Space Agency (ESA) and Chinese institutions, Alcatel Space's engineers were responsible for setting up the infrastructure needed to obtain the required signal, as well as training Chinese engineers. ■

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