



Giovanni Verlini

Editor's view



There is little doubt that the past two years have been tough ones for the satellite industry. Hit by the telecom and dotcom collapse, the post September 11 climate and an economic recession on a global scale (though many economists would argue that a global recession never really took place), the satellite sector has certainly seen better times than these. But what is the current state of the satellite industry in Asia? Can we still talk about a time of tribulations or can we finally say, or perhaps shout with pleasure, that a recovery is under way?

Let us have a look at a few clues from the marketplace to see whether there are reasons for believing that the future is bright. In their First Quarter (Q1) reports for the year 2003, many companies seem to be cautiously optimistic, with some expressly stating that a recovery is either under way or about to begin - see 'Financial Focus' section in his issue.

In a report entitled *Asia-Pacific Broadband Satellite Markets*, Jose del Rosario, Senior Analyst and Regional Director, Asia Pacific, Northern Sky Research, expresses the view that the outlook for broadband services overall, and thus for satellite-based platforms, should begin to brighten - see 'GVF Column' in this issue.

Meanwhile AsiaSat 4, the latest satellite for the Asia-Pacific market, was launched in April, another one, BSAT-2c will soon be launched, while Lockheed Martin Commercial Space Systems (LMCSS) has been awarded a contract by JSAT Corporation of Japan to build JCSAT-9, its latest geostationary telecommunications satellite.

New contracts like ViaSat's deal with The Beijing Application Institute of Information Technology (BAIT) and Australia's Multiimedia are announced every day. And these are not the only areas in ferment.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has successfully launched its second developmental test flight of its Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV), while Japan seems to have finally decided to set up a new space agency formed from the merger of three agencies - Institute of Space and Astronautical Science (ISAS), National Aerospace Laboratory of Japan (NAL), and National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA).

The long-awaited new agency is to be called Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). In order to convey the feeling of this renewed energy that is slowly building up in the satellite sector, we have decided to channel the experience accrued over ten years with Asia-Pacific Satellite into our new project, **Satellite Evolution Asia**.

We strongly believe that in the next few years the satellite market will go through an extraordinary phase of growth and change, and we will be there to report to you on this evolution. ■

The Editor welcomes comments on this and other industry issues.

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