

# Comtech EF Data announces high volume production availability of the next generation satellite modem

## US

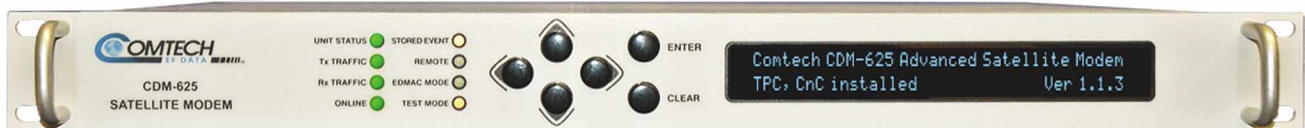
Comtech EF Data Corporation has announced its CDM-625 Advanced Satellite Modem is now in high volume production. The CDM-625 builds on Comtech EF Data's tradition of providing bandwidth and power efficient satellite modems, and is the first modem to combine the Low

Solomon, and TCM Forward Error Correction plus an integrated TPC and LDPC codec. Providing ultimate flexibility for diverse environments, the CDM-625 offers a wide range of data interfaces, including EIA-422/530, V.35, G.703 T1, G.703 E1, G.703 T2, G.703 E2, Quad

Qx/L and CDM-600/L Satellite Modems," said Daniel Enns, Senior Vice President Strategic Marketing and Business Development for Comtech EF Data. "The combination of advanced technologies in the CDM-625 will enable users to realize multi-dimensional optimization of their

structure, GCI recently conducted performance testing of the CDM-625.

"We conducted extensive performance tests on the new CDM-625," said Jimmy Sipes, Vice President Network Services for GCI. "Based on the advanced feature set, performance



Density Parity Check (LDPC) Forward Error Correction (FEC) with the DoubleTalk® Carrier-in-Carrier® bandwidth compression. This new platform is suited for mobile and telecommunication operators, satellite service providers, government and military entities, and enterprise users.

DoubleTalk Carrier-in-Carrier, based on the patented "Adaptive Cancellation" technology, allows the transmit and receive carriers of a duplex link to share the same transponder space. LDPC is an advanced FEC capable of providing performance much closer to the Shannon limit compared to any other technique. The combination of LDPC and DoubleTalk Carrier-in-Carrier can enable savings in transponder bandwidth and power utilization, as well as earth station BUC/HPA size.

The CDM-625 includes a number of other advanced features. Supporting 70/140 MHz and L-Band capability in the same unit with independently selectable transmit and receive IF, it simplifies sparing and stocking in networks requiring both frequencies. It features data rates from 18 kbps to 25 Mbps and symbol rates of 18 ksps to 12.5 Msps. The unit supports Viterbi, Concatenated Reed

G.703 E1, ASI, LVDS, HSSI, and 4-port 10/100BaseT Ethernet for traffic bridging.

For telecommunications and high speed trunking applications, the CDM-625 supports a Quad E1 interface that can aggregate up to four full or fractional E1s into a single carrier with very low overhead, significantly reducing multi-carrier power backoff requirements. This allows users to reduce the number of modems required while simultaneously reducing their BUC/HPA power requirements.

The CDM-625 provides several options for local and remote management. The modem can be managed via the front panel, the remote monitor and control port or the 10/100BaseT Ethernet port. With support for SNMP, http and Telnet, the modem can be easily integrated into an IP-based management system.

The CDM-625 is also backwards compatible with the CDM-600/L Satellite Modems. It even supports a CDM-600/L emulation mode that makes it easy to deploy in existing networks using CDM-600/L without changes to the 1:N redundancy switches or the management platform.

"The addition of the CDM-625 to our modem product line is complementary to the CDM-

satellite links."

General Communication, Inc. (GCI) is a regional integrated communication provider serving the state of Alaska. The company invests in integrated communication assets to create value for customers, opportunities for employees and growth for shareholders. With a company culture of utilizing the latest technologies for their network infra-

and the prospect of additional operating expense savings, we will begin immediate deployment of Comtech's CDM-625 modems in our satellite network."

Comtech EF Data is now accepting orders for the CDM-625 Advanced Satellite Modem. Please visit <http://www.comtechefdata.com/products/modems/pCDM-625.asp> for additional

## SES revolving credit facility successfully completed

SES has announced the successful closing and signing of a euros 550,000,000 Revolving Credit Facility.

Following strong support from new and existing banks, the facility closed considerably oversubscribed and has been increased from a launch amount of euros 350,000,000 while still having a significant element of scale back for the committed banks.

The syndicate comprises 20 banks.

The facility, which was arranged by ABN AMRO Bank N.V., The Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd., BNP Paribas and Fortis Bank S.A./N.V., is for general corporate purposes and has been structured as a two year multicurrency revolving credit facility with a one year extension option at the discretion of the lenders.

The margin is linked to a ratings grid and at the current rating of BBB / Baa2 the margin is 60bps p.a.

Mark Rigolle, Chief Financial Officer of SES, commented: "We are pleased to have secured this facility and to have extended our funding alternatives.

"The successful conclusion of this syndicated loan reflects SES's position as an investment grade credit, and underlines our ability to secure funding on attractive terms, even in the current credit environment."

# From Aberdeen to Cairo and beyond

## LONDON

Nothing succeeds like success. So goes the familiar adage.

Assuming that this once again proves to be true in Cairo at the upcoming 'Oil & Gas Communications: North Africa & the Middle East' conference – abbreviated to O&GC3 – taking place on 16th and 17th June 2008 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Corniche El-Nile, Garden City, Roda Island, Cairo, Egypt, then GVF and its partner UK-EMP will have succeeded in bringing to fruition another remarkable event focused on the communications imperatives of this key industrial vertical.

What is the success I'm referring to? Well, O&GC3 will take place just five weeks after the highly acclaimed conclusion to the Aberdeen conference 'Oil & Gas Connectivity: Digital Applications & Communications Dynamics', also organised by UK-EMP with the support of GVF.

Aberdeen bought together more than 40 companies from the communications and applications solutions provider market together with companies from the oil & gas user community.

These included: 3MS Networks, Advantech, Arqiva, Astra Broadband Services, Avanti Communications, Baker Hughes Inc, BHP Biliton Petroleum, BP Exploration, Cameron Oil, Canadian Natural Resources, CapRock Communications, Cisco Systems, Comtech EF Data, Euroconsult, Hermes Datacoms, Intelsat, Kongsberg Intellifield, Macom Consulting, Maersk Contractors, Nera Ltd, Network DNA, Parallel Ltd, Procomsat, Prosafe, Redline Data Communications, Remote Data Services, RigNet, Schlumberger Information Solutions, Sematron, Skylogic, Talisman Energy, Thales Alenia Space Italia, Thales Security Solutions & Services Division, Total, Union Fenosa Telecomunicaciones, Verizon Business, Vizada, and YR20.

O&GC3 is expected to achieve the same success, being similarly organised around a two-day programme – one that

is designed to be regionally complementary to the earlier conference.

The Cairo event has already attracted the registration of sizeable delegations from Saudi Aramco, the world's largest producer, and from Petrojet, a multi disciplinary, integrated construction contractor specialising in petroleum related projects in the North Africa and Middle East regions.

Also to attend will be delegates from International Egyptian Petroleum Company (IEOC), the Eni/Egyptian National Petroleum Company (ENPC) j/v, Dolphin Energy, Ganope Petroleum, Khalda, Suez RBO, and Centurion, amongst others.

Moreover, Cairo conference delegates will have the distinct privilege of listening to a special feature presentation on the subject of 'Broadband VSAT Services - New Perspectives for Oil and Gas Applications' from a representative of Saudi Aramco on the first day of the conference.

From the solutions provider community the involvement of Schlumberger, Hughes Network Systems, Advantech Satellite Networks, Hermes Datacomms, MobiServe, Caprock Communications, Thales Alenia, Intelsat, Eutelsat, Radyne, Newtech, UDCast, YahSat, Satcom Group, and Paradigm has been confirmed and still more companies are registering on a daily basis.

A series of themed panel sessions, together with a number of "Showcase" presentations, will comprise the Cairo programme. In detail, the themes for 'Oil & Gas Communications: North Africa & the Middle East' are as follows:

- Application & Technology Dynamics: From SCADA to Broadband Data Networking – An Overview;
- Communications Infrastructures Alternatives in the US\$100+ Barrel Environment: Investing in Future Mission Critical Delivery;
- Enablers of the 21st Century 'Digital Oilfield';

- Regulatory & Licensing Solutions: National & Regional Answers in an Oil & Gas Wireless World;
- Local & Global Connectivity Links: Fibre & Wireless Factors for Oil & Gas Business;
- Integrated Solutions from the First to the Last Mile;
- New Training Dynamics for Oil & Gas Communications;
- Platform-Technology Neutrality in E&P Applications Development;
- Real-Time Remote Collaboration & Operations Support Centre Networking;
- Communications Terminals: Installation, Maintenance & Performance Metrics Case Studies;
- Disaster Recovery, Business Continuity & Environmental Impact in North African & Middle Eastern Oil & Gas; and
- The Energy Industries & GVF Market Sector Initiatives.

Two previous, and successful, Cairo events took place in 2006 and 2007. Now, with the additional success of the 2008 Aberdeen conference, the premier regional oil & gas communications events for Europe and for North Africa & Middle East have been established.

In addition, plans are already underway to take the conference to the Southeast Asian oil & gas market, possibly in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur. More information about this will be published nearer the time.

O&GC3 will be an important event on the satellite communications industry calendar. It will provide extended networking opportunities between key leaders of oil & gas companies, the vendors of cutting-edge oil & gas industry applications, and the suppliers of state-of-the-art communications links. The conference will create opportunities for companies in the oil & gas vertical to call upon all ICT solutions providers – terrestrial wireline, wireless, and satellite, in the

communications field, together with developers/vendors in the digital applications field – to match their offerings more closely to the specific demands and requirements of the oil & gas patch.

The complex interrelationship between oil & gas sector applications supply, and the communications infrastructures required to support and deliver them, will be comprehensively investigated.

The O&GC3 programme will pose an absolutely central question. How can satellite, and non-satellite, communications solutions help 'enable the digital oilfield'?

The dialogue around this question will go beyond what is implicit in the 'enabling of the digital oilfield' – that is, the imperative requirement for systems resilience and data security – to analyse today's communications product and service environment within which the players in the solutions vendor community compete to satisfy the efficiency and data risk-management needs of the buyers of Digital Oilfield ICT solutions in the E & P environment.

The Cairo dialogue will also consider how the use of different communications platforms is helped, hindered, and determined by geographically determined supply factors, as well as an analysis of the potential for spectrum allocation conflicts between terrestrial wireless and satellite solutions in different parts of the global oil & gas patch.

In combination with the consideration of key regulatory and licensing issues, the Cairo dialogue will reflect facets of the oil & gas operating environment of North Africa & the Middle East that are quite different to the European environment covered in Aberdeen. ●

*Full information about O&GC3, the full programme, speakers, sponsors, venue location, etc., can be found by following the link from the event banner on the GVF homepage at [www.gvf.org](http://www.gvf.org).*

# Romantis secures Intelsat 15 capacity to establish platform across three regions

## EUROPE

Intelsat announced that Romantis GmbH ("Romantis"), a European satellite capacity trader providing satellite transmission services for European, African and Asian markets, signed another multi-year, multi-transponder contract for capacity on the Intelsat system to expand its service offering into the CIS, EU and the Middle East.

Under the agreement, Romantis will receive Ku-Band transponder services on the Intelsat 15 satellite which will be located at 85 degrees East once launched in 2009. Through its contract on Intelsat 15, Romantis expects to set up a universal satellite multimedia platform that will support a variety of applications, including DTH broadcasting, IPTV service platforms, DVB-S2 SD and HD distribution networks, as well as broadband services.

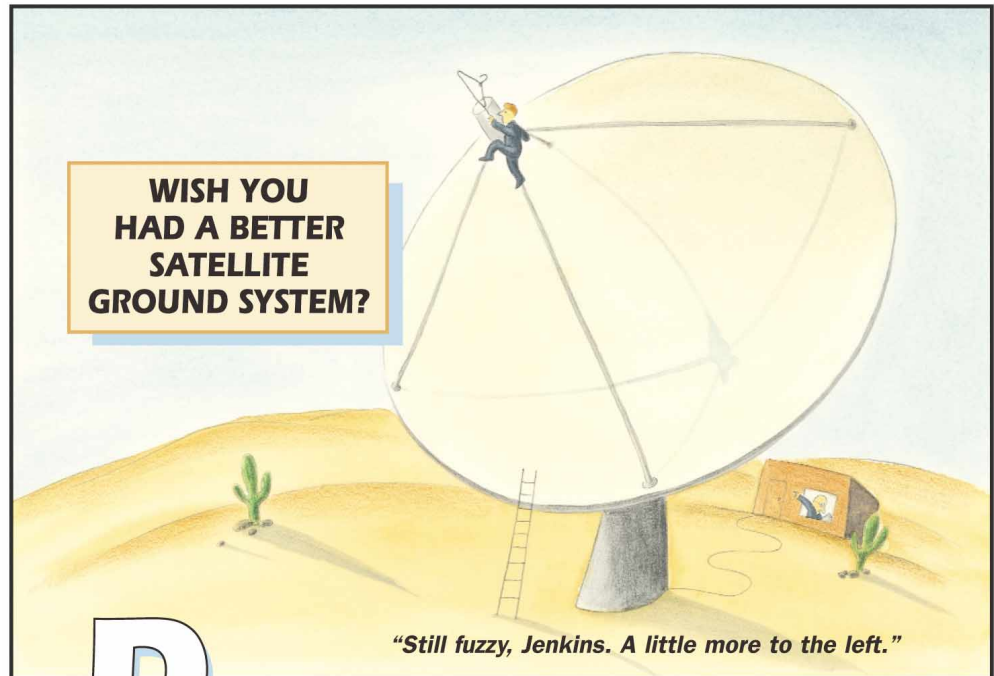
"The Intelsat 15 Ku-Band coverage is perfectly designed to serve the regions we operate in with a single uniform high-power beam," said Kai Lauterjung, Managing Director of Romantis. "Through this agreement we have secured capacity that will

enable us to substantially expand our services and respond to our customers' strong demand for premium broadcast and broadband services."

"Intelsat provides content

service providers an infrastructure allowing them to go into immediate operations and quickly expand," said Jean Philippe Gillet, Intelsat's Regional Vice President, Europe & Middle

East. "Our Intelsat 15 satellite will be a vital spacecraft within our fleet, providing content providers video and data services for the Middle East, Indian Ocean Regions and Russia." ●



**D**iscover why government and commercial clients have made Integral Systems the market leader in COTS solutions. For satellite command and control...carrier monitoring and interference detection... network management...and RF to Ethernet processing. We combine the industry's leading products to give you an integrated solution from a single, reliable source. No wonder Integral Systems is the world's leading ground system supplier. Contact us today. You'll find us very receptive.

## INTEGRAL SYSTEMS

The leader. For good reason.

Call 301.731.4233 or visit  
[www.integ.com](http://www.integ.com)

Integral Systems, Inc.

## In Brief

### SWEDEN

C2SAT announced a major delivery to the Norwegian Oil & Gas offshore market.

The order refers to C2SAT's Stabilised VSAT model C2SAT 1.2m Ku. C2SAT and Trac Networks, in co-operation, have delivered the first stabilised VSAT satellite communication solution in a larger tender. Trac provides the TracSAT service which offers global satellite coverage and functionality.

The strong growth in the offshore industry originates from a high demand for asymmetric high bandwidth satellite services, which enable transmission of large volumes of data in ship-to-shore applications. ●

## MoD to host vessel monitoring systems academy

### UK

Plans for a new package of Professional and Technical Training for Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) professionals has been unveiled.

A consortium headed by Carpe Diem Ltd, based at Cranfield University's technology park in England, has developed the new proposals which are aimed at supplementing existing in-house Vessel Monitoring Systems skills programmes.

Two training centres have been announced, one based at The Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security, University of Wollongong, Australia and the other at the UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) training establishment at Shrivenham. Both will offer services under Carpe Diem's VMSAcademy umbrella.

Outlining his vision for Professional and Technical Training Provision, Douglas Watson, Group Director of Carpe Diem Ltd said: "The centres will provide Port States, Coast Guards and Regional Fishery Manage-

ment Organisations (RFMOs) with a common training programme, common information on the latest technical, legal and management developments and will enable key stakeholders to share their experiences and knowledge."

With a well documented decline in in-house expert knowledge in this sector, many observers have noted that governments increasingly have to contract with multiple vendors and consultants in order to get a complete picture of Vessel Monitoring Systems technology, current legislation, and supplementary technologies. The new centres are a collaborative effort, with a wide cross section of the industry contributing to the courses.

The choice of The Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS), based at the University of Wollongong, was key for the concept. ANCORS is well established in fisheries law, regulation and security research

and its head, Professor Martin Tsamenyi welcomed the initiative. "Hosting the VMSAcademy will supplement the work that ANCORS has conducted over the past years. Our site is ideally placed to offer services for Australia, China, Japan and the Pacific Islands region", said the Professor.

"We liked the idea of a skills provision that was directly supported by the main suppliers of these systems. It means we're technology agnostic and governments can send their employees without fearing we will be supporting one solution over another. Additionally, our 'live' demonstration suite will be fitted with the latest hardware and software, so the VMSAcademy is capable of providing a number of educational and industrial services, including homologation", concluded the Professor.

The main suppliers of VMS technology have signed up to the project, including Absolute Software, Inmarsat, ARGOS, Iridium and the Food and Agriculture

Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has also welcomed the initiative. "Skills building and capacity development are areas that the FAO are keen to see developed and so this initiative is welcomed." Said Michele Kuruc of the FAO.

The second centre will be located at the Joint Services Command and Staff College (JSCSC), a component of the Defence Academy of the UK. The JSCSC provides world class Command and Staff education and training, in order to enhance Operational Capability, thereby advancing the Defence and Security interests of the United Kingdom. The location of the VMSAcademy at the Defence Academy will have significant benefits for both those attending the first course in September 2008 and other interested parties in the defence sector.

A third centre is due to be unveiled in the Middle East this year. Details of the VMSAcademy can be found at [www.cdscs.co.uk](http://www.cdscs.co.uk)

## Orbital partners with Thales Alenia Space to build Koreasat 6

### US/FRANCE

Orbital Sciences Corporation announced that it has signed a contract with Thales Alenia Space of France to supply its STAR satellite platform and carry out final spacecraft, payload and system integration and testing for the Koreasat 6 commercial communications satellite to be built for KT Corporation of the Republic of Korea. The spacecraft's engineering, manufacturing, integration and test activities will take place at Orbital's satellite manufacturing facility located in Dulles, VA. Thales Alenia Space will act as prime contractor for the project, provide the communications payload and deliver the Koreasat 6 satellite to KT.

At its final orbital slot at 116

degrees East Longitude, the Koreasat 6 satellite will carry 30 active Ku-Band channels that provide Direct Broadcast Services (DBS) and Fixed Satellite Services (FSS) to the people of Korea. The STAR-2 platform will support 3.4 kilowatts of payload power and will have a 15-year on-orbit mission life. Koreasat 6 is scheduled to be delivered and launched in mid- to late-2010.

The Koreasat 6 spacecraft is the second to be purchased in 2008 that uses Orbital's STAR platform. Earlier this year, the company announced a follow-on order from SES AMERICOM for its fourth STAR satellite purchased in the last two years. With the Koreasat 6 contract award, Orbital currently has 10 commer-

cial communications satellites in various stages of design and production for launches between 2008 and 2010.

"Orbital is proud and excited to be part of the Koreasat 6 program in partnership with Thales Alenia Space," said Mr. Christopher Richmond, Senior Vice President of Orbital Global

Communications. "Our flight-proven STAR-2 bus is the perfect fit for a Thales-built payload that will provide valuable DBS and FSS services to KT, the top telecommunications company in Korea. We look forward to the start of a successful program with our partners in Korea and France."

### RRsat expands agreement with Sony Pictures

RRsat Global Communications Network has been chosen to distribute AXN SCI-FI, the science fiction channel from Sony Pictures Television International ("SPTI") into Russia, over its premier RRsat Global Network.

The new agreement will leverage extensive capabilities of the RRsat Global Network including RRsat's fibre optic from the United Kingdom and encrypted satellite distribution services over the ABS-1 Satellite.

# Orange TV will cover more than 98 percent of French households

## FRANCE

As part of the deployment of Orange's triple play offer (telephone, Internet, TV), 24 million French households (98.3 percent of the mainland population) will be able to enjoy Orange TV from July 3rd. Agreements recently signed with Eutelsat have made it possible to extend the Orange TV offer. Up until now, broadband TV technology only enabled half of France's households to benefit from the offer. Thanks to this combined ADSL-satellite technology,

Orange TV programmes will be available to virtually all French households. At the MIPTV 2008 event in Cannes, Orange confirmed the selection of two orbital positions for Eutelsat HOT BIRD™ and ATLANTIC BIRD™3 (broadcasting from 13° East and 5° West) to handle the satellite broadcasting of the TV flow reception of its triple play offer (telephone, internet and TV), where this is not accessible via ADSL. Globecast, a subsidiary of the group, will handle the encoding, encrypting and transmission of the Orange TV channels.

As of July 3rd, nearly all French households will be able to subscribe to an Orange triple play offer (from euro29.90 a month). Depending on where they live, customers will be equipped with either Orange TV via ADSL or via an installation

combining ADSL and satellite reception. As of 23 May 2008, the orange internet site [www.orange.fr](http://www.orange.fr) will provide information on the practical aspects of Orange TV access and deter-

mine eligibility.

All Orange triple play customers will have access to dozens of free channels as well as packages of optional channels. The entire offer, including inter-

active services, VOD and TV on demand, which are already accessible to customers via ADSL, will be gradually extended to customers of the combined offer.

## Thousands of Antennas Thousands of Places

FlyAways &  
Vehicle-Mounted  
Auto-Acquisition  
Satellite Antennas

# AvL TECHNOLOGIES

*designs for ultimate performance*

[www.avltech.com](http://www.avltech.com)

## In Brief

### US

Radyne Corporation has signed a definitive merger agreement with Comtech Telecommunications Corporation pursuant to which Comtech has agreed to acquire Radyne in an all-cash transaction. Under the terms of the merger agreement, unanimously approved by both companies' Boards of Directors, Comtech will make a first step cash tender offer at \$11.50 per share.