

Thuraya releases new portable terminal

DUBAI

A new A-5 sized 444Kbps broadband terminal with advanced video streaming capability is the new competitive product launched by Thuraya, world leading mobile satellite operator, as part of its ongoing products innovation strategy.

The new terminal, among the smallest in the satellite broadband category, is considered to be the most efficient for its size in terms of speed offering and video streaming capability.

The ThurayaIP service is offered in various monthly fee packages with limited and unlimited usages, depending on customer differing needs.

According to market commentators, the compact size, high-speed unlimited access, video streaming capability and competitive pricing will make ThurayaIP one of the most attractive mobile satellite broadband offerings in the industry.

The product is aimed at such key market segments as oil and gas, NGOs, government, coastguards, maritime, media (satellite news gathering -SNG- missions), transport and business continuity purposes.

Developed by Hughes Network Systems LLC, ThurayaIP has a built-in antenna which provides a rapid maximum recep-

tion speed of 444Kbps and a maximum transmission speed of 202 Kbps.

The terminal supports fine tuned video streaming that is of superior quality using dedicated channels at a speed of 384 Kbps, ensuring that users have access to clear video data.

Thuraya has already signed up specialized service providers in the Middle East, Asia-Pacific and Europe to promote and distribute the new product which is currently available at the distribution channels.

"We have always realized that data would be the key driver of the telecommunications market growth. As such, we have

built and evolved a strong product line for data offerings which are increasingly becoming among our core services at Thuraya," said Thuraya's CEO Mr. Yousuf Al Sayed.

"We are already the leading operator for mobile satellite narrowband, and the launch of our new and more advanced IP offering will position us among the key players in the mobile satellite broadband market," elaborated the Thuraya CEO.

The Company is expecting a fast roll-out for this product since it is currently negotiating several additional partnerships for the marketing and distribution of this cutting-edge terminal. ●

SES ASTRA signs first deal at new orbital position

LUXEMBOURG

SES ASTRA has signed a long-term agreement with a company representing the independent German cable operators to transmit digital Free-to-Air TV to their networks.

Kabel Dienst Leistungsgesellschaft (KDL), which was set up specifically to provide services to the independent cable operators, has contracted two transponders on SES ASTRA's new orbital position at 31.5 degrees East. KDL is the first customer using transponder capacity at this position.

In addition to the contracted capacity, ASTRA Platform Services (APS) will provide technical services to KDL via its play-out centre in Unterföhring, near Munich.

The independent cable operators provide TV-signals from their own head ends to several million German households. The cooperation with SES ASTRA enables KDL to offer them an optimized access to digital TV channels called TOPP (Transponder optimized program packages). The service allows a simple and efficient feed of 22 digital free-to-air TV channels into the networks. TOPP also in-

cludes the offer by KDL to distribute digital TV receivers to the connected cable households. TOPP is scheduled for launch on 8th of October at the FRK cable congress in Leipzig, Germany.

Alexander Oudendijk, Chief Commercial Officer of SES ASTRA, said: "SES ASTRA has established itself as the prime supplier of signals to cable head-ends in Germany. With this cooperation, we have found a strong partner to drive the necessary digitalisation of the cable networks. We are also pleased to have closed the first capacity contract for our new orbital position at 31.5 degrees East. This new position will allow us to significantly enlarge and diversify our offering to customers across Europe."

Heinz-Peter Labonte, Managing Director of the Federal German Association of Private and Independent Cable Operators (FRK), said: "The FRK initiated and supported TOPP, because it wanted to offer to the private and independent cable operators who have their own head-ends a solution to provide digital free-to-air programs to their customers, independently

from the large regional cable operators such as KDG, Unity Media, KBW or TC/PC/Orion. TOPP helps the private and independent cable operators to compete with the bigger operators and secures competition in the German cable market."

Anett Klose, Managing Director of KDL said: "SES ASTRA has a proven track record as a signal provider for cable head-ends and as a neutral, technical

infrastructure provider. The new partnership and the launch of TOPP allow us to offer an attractive selection of digital channels, defined by us in cooperation with the private and independent cable operators to the cable market. This will significantly push the digitalisation of the cable networks in Germany and will help the private and independent cable companies to compete with bigger operators." ●

Boeing delivers 4th HD TV satellite to DIRECTV

The Boeing Company announced that DIRECTV Inc. has taken on-orbit delivery of the DIRECTV 11 satellite, which will continue to expand DIRECTV's industry-leading lineup of high-definition television channels and services to millions of households in the United States.

Sea Launch launched DIRECTV 11 on March 19 on a Sea Launch Zenit-3SL rocket from the launch services company's equatorial launch site in the Pacific Ocean. The newest spacecraft in DIRECTV's fleet will begin transmitting additional national high-definition signals for the nation's leading satellite TV provider, and expand DIRECTV's HD platform to up to 150 national channels and local HD channels in well over 100 markets by this fall.

DIRECTV 11 is the fourth Ka-band Boeing 702 satellite built for DIRECTV at Boeing's satellite manufacturing facility in El Segundo, Calif. The facility encompasses approximately one million square feet and is the largest state-of-the-art dedicated satellite factory in the world.

Advanced experimentation and analysis capability meets MOD and industry needs

UK

Since the opening of The Portal in July 2007, QinetiQ and The Boeing Company have conducted a broad spectrum of training events, demonstrations and classified experiments in support of numerous UK Ministry of Defence (MOD) and industry programs. The Portal has successfully supported more than 130 separate activities ranging in scale from half-day workshops to multi-week experiments, and has met all requirements.

The state-of-the-art decision-support capability at QinetiQ's Cody Technology Park site in Farnborough, England, is enabling customers to explore and understand implications of proposed network-enabled systems in a real-time, dynamic environment featuring the latest in modelling, simulation, analysis and experimentation techniques and tools.

QinetiQ and Boeing have undertaken several joint activities, but most projects have been in support of individually managed programs. Customers have been testing logistical requirements across a wide range of existing and future operational settings and against a variety of threats. Experiment designers create enhanced environments with multiple concurrent activities to compare the effectiveness and survivability of competing systems, test future scenarios and assess potential solutions before they are delivered to the front line. Operators have also addressed the interoperability issues of coalition warfighting through combinations of live assets and virtual simulations.

"Partnering with Boeing on this exciting venture continues to provide value for us collectively, individually and for the growing and quite diverse range of customers that are now benefiting from the capabilities The Portal provides," said QinetiQ's Chief Executive Graham Love. "The Portal allows customers to explore many alternative scenarios in a fully immersive and interactive environment, and to see the

effects of introducing new technologies to support current systems and platforms in order to optimize design concepts and performance."

"The Portal enables us to support our customers' decision-making processes by helping them to explore their options, evaluate alternative solutions, minimize risk, and reduce cost and development time," added Darryl Davis, President of Boeing Advanced Systems.

QinetiQ has undertaken projects including a training demonstration to investigate the feasibility and effectiveness of running a virtual training event for road-convoy personnel. In support of NITeworks — the MOD/industry collaboration for advanced decision-support capability — QinetiQ, with assistance from Boeing, investigated which process, organization, doctrine and training changes or technology insertions would be most effective for an integrated air defence command and control system.

Boeing projects include a series of analyses — including virtual/constructive operator-in-the-loop experiments — for the Future Rapid Effect System (FRES) program that led to the successful award of the FRES Systems of Systems Integrator (SOSI) role to the Thales-Boeing team earlier this year. Other activities include participation in a NITeworks FRES project, classified analysis into disruptive technologies for the equipment community, and — in conjunction with QinetiQ — future concepts analysis for the Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre.

The Portal's capabilities continue to support the MOD's Defence Industrial Strategy and Defence Technology Strategy, which both recommend that UK suppliers invest in tools and technologies to enable future military hardware and software solutions to be assessed in a variety of operational environments.

QinetiQ's quest wide area network features nodes across the UK in multiple domains, including land, missile defence, air and sea.

The Boeing Laboratory Network links more than 700 Boeing labs, including the Systems Analysis Laboratory in Brisbane, Australia, U.S. government labs and industry partners.

The 6,000-square-foot Portal facility features laboratories, viewing areas, conference rooms, and a state-of-the-art presentation and audiovisual suite that can link to an additional 14,000-square-foot experimentation space and up to 50,000 square feet of hard standing area for large vehicles or mobile facilities, such as a

tented headquarters.

The Portal supports all major simulation software systems and uses the latest Dual- and Quad-Core Intel® Xeon® central processing unit technology. Significant secure storage is available along with a scalable bandwidth link up to 32 Mbps in size that can securely connect The Portal to other QinetiQ, Boeing, industry and MOD facilities in the UK and around the world. The facility also can connect to the Joint Multi-National Interoperability Assurance Network for MOD-sponsored programs.

The Portal is a jointly owned asset of Boeing Defence UK Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Boeing Company, and QinetiQ. ●

Integral Systems appoints CEO

Integral Systems has announced that John B. Higginbotham has assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer and joined the Board of Directors effective immediately as the company completed its planned transition of Interim CEO Alan Baldwin to his prior role on the Board of Directors. Higginbotham, who founded SpaceVest Capital (now RedShift Ventures), a recognized private equity firm for the space industry, will benefit from the success that Baldwin achieved in re-establishing the Company as a premier provider of satellite ground systems solutions to both the commercial and government sectors.

"We are most appreciative of the significant impact Alan has had on the company during his tenure as interim CEO," said John M. Albertine, Chairman of the Board. "Over the past year, we have increased shareholder value and market capitalization substantially. We are very pleased with the Company's performance to-date and know that John will continue this momentum. Over the past year, Baldwin hired several key executive leaders and established processes and controls to support the Company's growth strategy and business plan. He was instrumental in further integrating Integral's subsidiary companies.

"Integral Systems is well-known in the industry for its innovative command and control software solutions to the commercial and government markets," said Higginbotham. "Alan and the executive management team have done a tremendous job in reinvigorating the company and taking advantage of the opportunities to expand its services and market penetration. I look forward to working with this team as we take Integral to the next level of growth."

Higginbotham currently serves on the board of directors of ProtoStar, Ltd. He was formerly a director of Analytical Graphics, Inc., Novariant, Inc., and Imaginova, Inc. Prior to SpaceVest, Higginbotham was a co-founder of Intec (now AXASpace), a leading global space and telecommunications insurance underwriting management firm.

CETel commits to expanding

MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

To serve the growing demand in the Middle East and African markets, CETel has formally contracted with Arabsat to provide services on its just-launched BADR-6 satellite. The satellite has a perfect stretched coverage over Africa and will go into operation in summer 2008. CETel committed to half a transponder, with the opportunity to enlarge its capacity. As one of the first satellite communications providers, CETel will be able to offer its Teleport & Satellite services on Arabsat's BADR-6 capacities via a new 9.3m antenna from Vertex pointing to this new satellite. Arabsat and CETel have built up a strong and reliable partnership with joint solutions comprising 1- and 2-way Broadband Internet services for the Middle East and African markets, and a world-leading offer of dedicated connections between the Middle East and Africa into the European fibre backbone network for major communication carriers.

"Combining CETel's knowledge with Arabsat's expertise and excellent satellite fleet encourages both sides to offer joint value-added services meeting the growing demands of the Middle East and African markets," said Guido Neumann, Managing Director of CETel.

"I'm delighted that our long-standing partnering relationship with CETel is now moving to a larger scope with this latest addition to their space capacity inventory with us," commented Eng. Khalid Balkheyour, President and Chief Executive Officer

of Arabsat. "By taking full advantage of our brand new BADR-6 satellite widely extended C-band footprint coverage over Africa, I'm convinced they will be able to rapidly grow their customer base in that continent," he concluded. From its teleport facilities


in Germany, CETel is able to provide satellite-based communication services on Arabsat's BADR-4 in Ku-band, and in C-band on Arabsat's BADR-6 and Arabsat-2B. In the near future, CETel is looking forward to the "fifth generation" of Arabsat sat-

ellites to further strengthen its strategic partnership with the satellite provider for securing enough capacity to support its expansion in the long-term, starting with its Arabsat-5A scheduled for launch as early as 2nd half of 2009.

News Brief

Arqiva has secured a new contract with French broadcaster Multi7 to manage its multiplex platform delivering a new Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) service. From its Paris teleport Arqiva manages encoding, multiplexing and signal switching before delivering the content by dedicated fibre to the broadcast transmitter on top of the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

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SES create new operating segment

LUXEMBOURG

SES has announced plans to combine SES AMERICOM and SES NEW SKIES to form a new operating segment of SES. Robert Bednarek, currently President and CEO of SES NEW SKIES, will become President and CEO of this new operating segment. The SES AMERICOM and SES NEW SKIES satellite fleets will remain separately owned and operated, and the new segment will continue to be supported from its current locations and facilities around the world. No major changes to business operations and market activities are currently anticipated.

"By creating this new seg-

ment and combining the experienced management teams of SES AMERICOM and SES NEW SKIES, SES will improve its overall operating performance, while strengthening its competitiveness and better positioning the company for future growth," said Romain Bausch, President and CEO of SES. "In addition to the synergies that can be expected, the new segment will be able to approach its markets with an increased level of focus and flexibility, while leveraging the power of SES' global fleet to benefit its current and future customers. This is an exciting new chapter in the history

of SES, and I am confident that Rob is the experienced professional needed to lead this new segment."

Joining SES in January 2002 as a recognised satellite industry expert, Bednarek was appointed to the SES executive committee and has actively participated in the strong growth of the company. As Executive Vice President of Corporate Development, he was instrumental in helping to position SES as an industry leader through his oversight of SES' portfolio of regional holdings and his support of new service concepts throughout the group. He also led the team that

directed the acquisition and integration of SES NEW SKIES in 2006, before becoming its President and CEO in 2007.

"Bringing together the talent, capabilities and resources of SES AMERICOM and SES NEW SKIES is a unique opportunity for SES to better serve its customers through a diverse and wide-ranging fleet, and to improve processes and customer support," said Robert Bednarek. "As part of SES, and in concert with our colleagues at SES ASTRA, we will also be able to support our customers' ever increasing and diversified current and future satellite needs." ●

Arabsat welcomes euronews in Arabic

SAUDI ARABIA

Arabsat is pleased to announce that euronews, the leading pan-European news channel, will broadcast its 7-language versions and also the all-Arabic 8th version over the Middle East, North Africa and sub-Saharan regions on its 26° East video "Hot Spot". With this long-term contract for space capacity on Arabsat's BADR-4 and brand new BADR-6 satellites, euronews will enjoy a direct access to an audience of more than 164 million watching the BADR constellation of satellites in digital, from the Maghreb countries to the Gulf, to Levant, Egypt and Sudan, as well as to sub-Saharan Africa in analogue taking advantage of its widely extended C-band footprint.

A universal channel by construction, euronews has made its name among the international news channels since 1993 as it leads the European market in audience and distribution despite increasing competition. In this era of the "citizen journalist", euronews has adopted the crucial task of ensuring every citizen-viewer is quickly made aware of the facts he needs to form his own opinion of the world.

"We are very impressed with the perfectly mastered technical

sophistication demonstrated by euronews' capability of broadcasting in now eight different languages. We will definitely put all our energy behind supporting its successful deployment over the whole Middle East, North African and sub-Saharan regions via BADR-6, our brand new state-of-the-art satellite launched as recently as last Monday at 26°East, the Arab world's "Hot Spot" for Direct-to-Home broadcasting", stated Eng. Khalid Balkheyour, Arabsat's President and CEO.

Philippe Cayla, Chairman and CEO of euronews declared: "At euronews, we believe that the role of a news channel is to provide every individual citizen with sufficient material for him to form his own opinion of the world."

"We are therefore convinced that joining Arabsat's BADR unmatched stretched coverage and high power over the MENA region will give us the vast Arab audience exposure we are aiming at while, conversely, our pure editorial line will as well bring something truly valuable to its entrenched neighbourhood," he added.

Starting July 12th, 2008, euronews Arabic language service will be distributed and broadcast over the whole Arab world

via Arabsat's BADR satellites where it will join a bouquet of 240+ Free-to-Air TV channels and 90+ radio stations available from the BADR constellation of satellites co-located at its 26°East video "Hot Spot".

"We have a great deal of admiration for the company, the work it is producing, and its cour-

age in broadcasting information accurately to people who want to look clearly at the world around them. As such, euronews will perfectly complement Arabsat's already extensive diversified news channels line-up with a unique qualitative European view on news," Mr. Balkheyour concluded. ●

South-African service provider Internet Solutions selects ND SatCom SkyWAN

ND SatCom's technology platform SkyWAN® was selected by Internet Solutions (IS), a leading South-African converged communications service provider, to set up a VSAT network for the Pan-African trade association COMESA. COMESA will connect its offices throughout the continent to its headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia, for office applications such as internet access, file transfer, phone, fax and email.

Dieter Dreizler, ND SatCom's Director of Sales, is looking forward to the cooperation with South Africa's biggest independent converged communications service provider: "Internet Solutions provides VSAT, hosting, access, mobile, and voice over internet protocol (VoIP) solutions across the African continent, and for more than 85 percent of South Africa's listed companies. This project is a great opportunity for ND SatCom and we are very proud that we were selected by IS. Our SkyWAN® platform is an ideal match for the service provider's and end customer's business requirements because it supports a variety of communication applications, is fully scalable, and offers a fully meshed topology."

ND SatCom has been active in Africa for several years, serving NGOs, government bodies and enterprises with reliable and cost-efficient VSAT solutions e.g. for the oil and gas sector and Air Traffic Control applications.

HISPASAT selects Loral Space and Communications for new spacecraft

SPAIN

Space Systems/Loral (SS/L) has been awarded a contract to manufacture a new spacecraft for HISPASAT Group, the eighth largest operator in the world and the leading operator in the broadcasting and distribution of contents in Spanish and Portuguese. HISPASAT broadcasts and distributes more than 1,000 TV and radio channels, including the contents of the most important DTH services, in Europe and America, including its High Definition offer.

HISPASAT 1E is designed to provide Fixed Satellite Services (FSS) and Broadcast Satellite Services (BSS) for 15 years or more. Scheduled to be available for launch in 2010, the spacecraft is a powerful, state-of-the-art Ku-band satellite which will be located at 30 degrees West, further expanding HISPASAT's coverage in Europe, the Americas, and North Africa.

The new satellite will be capable of operating up to 53 simultaneous Ku-band transponders and is based on Space Systems/Loral's space proven 1300 satellite platform, which provides the flexibility for a broad range of applications. It will have a launch mass of approximately five tons and will produce nearly 14-kW of prime power at end of life.

"HISPASAT and Space Systems/Loral share a commitment to expanding communications access throughout the world," said John Celli, President and

chief operating officer of Space Systems/Loral. "We look forward to working together, and to the flawless delivery of one of the world's best satellites."

With more than 50 years'

history and more than 1,400 cumulative on-orbit service years logged, Space Systems/Loral uses its space proven, heritage design as the reliable foundation for incremental technology ad-

vances that help customers meet their business objectives. SS/L has manufactured more than 220 satellites, with 54 satellites currently operating in space.

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News Brief

Globecomm Systems has been awarded multiple contracts from a global multilateral organization valued at approximately \$9.1 million. Pursuant to the contracts, Globecomm will provide the customer with several fixed terminals and mobile communication trailers. These systems, when deployed, enable the customer to communicate with a central command centre from anywhere in the world.