

A new year A new industry A new *Satellite Evolution*



As 2005 comes to an end, that dreaded time of the year is also approaching once again: the time for drawing a balance of the last 12 months. Was it a good year? Did we do all that we planned do a year ago? On a personal level, each one of us will have to ask himself/herself how the year was, and I suspect that a few will have to admit it that not all went according to plan - perhaps those few pounds around the waistline you could not shed? Or maybe that cigarette that you still enjoy with a cup of coffee? At an industry level, however, the nature of the examination of the past year has to be done on a totally different assumption: not so much whether we kept our resolutions, of course, but more in terms of how the industry is evolving.

Well, without fear of overstating it, we can say that the past 12 months for the satellite industry have been amazing. At all levels. Where should we start from? At a corporate level, we have witnessed (with some relief) the eagerly-awaited return of the financial community to the satellite sector, with a number of companies making their debut on the stockmarket, and more being taken over by private equity firms.

At a more practical level, on the other hand, many relatively-speaking new applications have established firm roots in the market (I am thinking of satellite radio and digital multimedia broadcasting, for example) and many more are showing extremely promising early signs (on this, more later). We also witnessed what could be described as one of the most bewildering episodes in the history of the commercial satellite sector: the announcement of the merger between giant satellite operators Intelsat and PanAmSat leading to the creation of a real 'behemoth' boasting a fleet of over 50 spacecraft orbiting around the globe - the consequences of this merger are still far from being clear.

In other words, news were aplenty in 2005, and this certainly helped us fill up the pages of *Satellite Evolution Asia*. But what can we expect from 2006? Hopefully, it will be a year that will see a continuation of the trend towards healthier growth rates. Besides, it will be interesting to see what happens with the Intelsat-PanAmSat merger (will the Federal Communication Commission give its go-ahead?), and the latest developments within the launching industry with a range of new small rockets set to make their debut in the next year or two. But above all, at *Satellite Evolution Asia* we believe that 2006 will be the year of Internet Protocol (IP), with new systems such as IPSTAR finally launching commercial services, and new applications such as IPTV and hybrid networks taking the central stage in several markets.

Naturally, we could be proved wrong in our prediction, but one thing is for sure: the satellite industry is never steady and keeps evolving all the time. To follow this interesting industry, the *Satellite Evolution Group* is launching a number of new editorial products designed to serve the satellite community from all different angles and perspectives: a new satellite portal with unrivalled online resources; a free newsletter bringing you the latest information on the satellite marketplace; *Satellite Evolution Global* magazine, focusing on vertical markets; and a *Satellite Evolution Yearbook* that will be your companion and point of reference for this amazing industry. Without forgetting, of course, our leading magazines *Satellite Evolution Asia* and *Satellite Evolution EMEA*, now in their fourth year of publication. Would you and your colleagues like to receive all these products to your desk for free? Just visit www.satellite-evolution.com and register with us. We'll do the rest! ■

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