

## India and Malaysia to develop a satellite neighbourhood for the Asia-Pacific region

### Regional

MEASAT Global Bhd. and Antrix Corporation Limited, the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), have signed an agreement to form a Joint Venture Company (JV Co) to pool their satellite capacities, in a major move to develop a satellite neighbourhood for millions of broadcasting and telecommunications customers across the wider Asia Pacific region.

The Malaysian Prime Minister, YAB Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, and Indian Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, witnessed the signing of the landmark agreement between Antrix and MEASAT. The JV Co, which will be equally owned by the two companies, represents a significant breakthrough and major step in the ongoing co-operation between the Indian and Malaysian satellite sectors, as it will leverage capacity from both the Indian INSAT and Malaysian MEASAT satellite fleets to provide commercial satellite services across the wider Asia-Pacific region.

"We have been working

closely with MEASAT across a number of areas over the last few years, including the provision of consultancy services to MEASAT for the procurement of its satellite," said K.R. Sridhara Murthi, Executive Director, Antrix. "We are excited to be able to extend our co-operation through this joint venture, and position INSAT to be a leading satellite system serving the wider Asia-Pacific market."

By pooling agreed capacity from these neighbouring satellites in the strategically located orbital slots of 93.5 degrees East and 91.5 degrees East, the JV Co will be able to provide C-band satellite services to over 70 per cent of the world's population, and Direct-to-Home (DTH) quality Ku-band satellite services to over 160 million TV households across South Asia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia and Indochina.

The JV Co will leverage the MEASAT Teleport and Broadcast Centre for the provision of leading edge satellite services, and explore feasibility of the development of a world class customer teleport in India.



Official birth of a partnership. Image courtesy of MEASAT

As part of the ongoing co-operation between the two organisations, MEASAT has also signed a Letter of Intent with Antrix to procure a new satellite, MEASAT-4, from ISRO. The satellite will provide additional Ku-band capacity for the MEASAT fleet, as well as the opportunity for the Indian and Malaysian space communities to work together.

Detailed discussions on technical and commercial issues are at an advanced stage, with

the satellite expected to be procured for scheduled launch in the First Quarter (Q1) of 2007.

"We have used Indian space technology and expertise on the MEASAT-1 and MEASAT-3 programmes," said Y.Bhg. Tun Haji Mohammed Hanif Omar, Director, MEASAT Satellite Systems Sdn. Bhd. "We are pleased to be able to work with ISRO and Antrix on a new satellite which will further our joint interests across the region," Tun Hanif concluded. ■

### Binariang renamed MEASAT

**Binariang Satellite Systems Sdn. Bhd.**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of MEASAT Global Berhad, has announced it has changed its company name to MEASAT Satellite Systems Sdn. Bhd. (MEASAT).

"Binariang has had a distinguished history in Malaysia, being initially associated with the Maxis Communications Berhad group – the country's leading mobile phone operator, and Astro – the country's Direct-To-Home (DTH) television provider," said Datuk Umar bin. Haji Abu, Chairman of MEASAT Global. "Despite strong attachment to the old name, with the increasing presence of the MEASAT brand across the region, we felt it important to align our company name with the brand," continued Datuk Umar.

"With the opening of the MEASAT Teleport and Broadcast Centre this year, and the expected launch of MEASAT-3 in 2005, the new name also reflects the internationalisation of the company" concluded Datuk Umar. ■

## Satellite radio policy being considered

### India

The Telecom Radio Authority of India (TRAI) has met to address the need for a policy and regulatory framework for satellite radio services in the country.

Presently, there is no set policy for satellite radio, in contrast to clearly-established policies for other media segments. This has given rise to issues such as level playing field between satellite radio service and private FM Radio, regulation of

broadcast content, license fees, and receiver interoperability requirement in case of a new satellite radio service provider.

Even though there are only four satellite radio systems worldwide, and only one, WorldSpace, that services India at present, TRAI wants a policy framework to remove regulatory uncertainty for the existing and potential future satellite radio operators. ■



## Packeteer acquires Mentat

### US

Packeteer, Inc., a pioneer and global leader in Wide Area Network (WAN) Application Traffic Management, has announced that it has acquired privately held Mentat Inc. of Los Angeles, California. The acquisition deepens and extends Packeteer's intellectual property and provides advanced acceleration capabilities for new WAN performance solutions for global enterprise customers.

Under the terms of the agreement, Packeteer will pay approximately US\$16.5 million in cash to acquire all outstanding shares of Mentat. In addition, Packeteer will pay approximately

\$3.5 million in retention bonuses to Mentat employees in both cash and restricted stock, with the majority being paid over the next two years. Mentat will operate as a Packeteer business unit reporting to Mike Schumacher, Vice President (VP) of Engineering for Packeteer.

"This acquisition is an important step in more fully defining our network system vision for Fast WAN appliances and it provides significant technology for additional acceleration capabilities that make us more strategic to enterprise networks," said Dave Côté, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Packeteer. "In addition to the im-

mediate synergies that we gain in the marketplace, Mentat's technology provides a foundation for increasing returns as we consolidate more capabilities into one appliance."

Kay Guyer, Mentat's CEO stated, "We are excited to join a company that shares our vision and is driving this explosive market. Our customers have been requesting more WAN performance and optimisation features such as Quality of Service (QoS), monitoring, and central management. With Packeteer, we can now deliver the most complete solution for WAN performance and optimisation to the market." ■

## Patriot awarded SES-Americom contract

### US

Patriot Antenna Systems has been awarded a contract to supply SES Americom's Ka-band monitoring stations with the company's patented dual skin technology for ultra high RMS surface accuracy.

The system will enable peak performance of SES Americom's Ka-band capacity on AMC15/AMC16.

This is done by using Patriot's new Quick Deploy 1.2-metre flyaway antenna systems. These flyaway antennas utilise a four-port Ka-band circular tx/rx feed assembly along with 3Watt BUCs and LNBS to monitor signal strength of the Ka band satellite.

The systems are integrated by Patriot and can be shipped to key locations across the country at short-notice using hard bound transport cases.

Patriot's patented dual skin antenna process allows for light weight antenna systems similar to carbon fibre but with the strength and durability needed while holding strict tolerances that are needed for Ka-band applications. The receive-only systems also comprise Patriot's 1.2-metre fixed antennas in key locations across the US. They will continually monitor the downlink transmissions of both SES satellites. ■

satellite, scheduled for the third week of January 2005, will review the readiness of the satellite prior to shipment to Arianespace's launch site in Kourou, French Guiana.

With the completion of this important qualification step, the satellite is on schedule to move on to the final preparations for delivery by SS/L. ■

## IPSTAR-1 satellite completes CATR testing

### US/Thailand

Space Systems/Loral (SS/L), the US manufacturer of the IPSTAR-1 satellite, has informed Shin Satellite Plc., that the spacecraft has now successfully concluded its Antenna Patterns and End-to-End Payload tests in Compact Antenna Test Range (CATR), the last of a series of tests to complete qualification of the satellite. The satellite is on schedule and the company expects the final preparations for delivery by SS/L to be made soon.

### Examination

CATR is an examination of the complete end-to-end communication channels including transmit and receive performance and coverage of service areas of the satellite after this has been subjected to simulated space (ie, thermal vacuum test) and launch environments (ie, dynamics test).

Then, SS/L will perform final routine electrical systems checks and preparation of the satellite for delivery. The Pre-Shipment Review of IPSTAR



Soon over Asia: the IPSTAR-1 satellite.  
Image courtesy of Shin Satellite



# Satellite sector contributes to tsunami relief effort

## Regional

The world's satellite sector is helping the communities affected by the tsunami with critical technological support. The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) airlifted satellite communication terminals and satellite phones to the Indian islands of Nicobar and Andaman to help with the disaster-relief effort. The islands were among the areas devastated by the tsunami. ISRO sent Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs), diesel generators, INSAT-based multiple service terminals, and Inmarsat-based satellite phones. Much of the equipment has already been damaged by the waves, and ISRO is sending replacements to support the telemedicine network there.

Meanwhile, in separate but related news, the French space agency, CNES, has donated satellite images from its Spot Earth observation satellites to relief teams in Sri Lanka who are assisting with disaster-relief efforts following the earthquake and

tsunami. It has also contributed three Inmarsat satellite communications ground stations to assist with telemedicine services used by rescue teams.

CNES is a member of the International Space and Major Disasters Charter, a relief group

created in November 2000 and activated on 26 December 2004. The Charter is an international satellite-based disaster-assistance program created through a co-ordinated request from ISRO, French relief groups in Asia and the UN. ■

## Correction

In the article 'Key buying considerations', *Satellite Evolution Asia*, Jul/Aug 2004, pg 32-35, there was an error in Table 1, which should have referred to

the manufacturing capability of EADS Astrium. The correct tables for Alcatel Space and EADS Astrium are reported below. The mistake, which occurred in the

layout process, has nothing to do with the original material supplied by Futron Corporation, and in no way reflects on the original report. ■

## CDMA contract bagged

### India/US

US satellite equipment manufacturer Comtech Telecommunications Corp. has announced that its Arizona-based subsidiary, Comtech EF Data Corp., was awarded a US\$2.8 million contract to provide satellite communications equipment to a leading Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) cellular operator.

In conjunction with Hughes Escorts Communication Limited, a subsidiary of Hughes Network Systems (HNS), and Eitel Systems Ltd., the deployment of Comtech's equipment will augment a Single Channel Per Carrier (SCPC) Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) network allowing voice and data connectivity. Aligning the expertise of all three companies will allow for state-of-the-art CDMA satellite technology across India. Comtech's equipment is expected to be delivered by April 2005. ■

Alcatel Space			
<i>Program Name</i>	<i>Client</i>	<i>Bus Model</i>	<i>Production time adjusted for all non-manufacturer delays (months)</i>
EUTELSAT W4	Eutelsat	Spacebus 3000B2	17
EUROBIRD 1	Eutelsat	Spacebus 3000B3	19
ATLANTIC BIRD 2	Eutelsat	Spacebus 3000B2	21
EURASIASAT 1	Turksat	Spacebus 3000B3	48
ATLANTIC BIRD 3	Eutelsat	Spacebus 3000B3	22
HOT BIRD 6	Eutelsat	Spacebus 3000B3	33
HISPASAT 1D	Hispasat	Spacebus 3000B2	25
ASTRA 1K	SES Astra	Spacebus 3000B3S	59
EUTELSAT W5	Eutelsat	Spacebus 3000B2	24
AMC-9	SES Americom	Spacebus 3000B3	23
<i>Average production schedule (contract signing to launch)</i>			29

EADS Astrium			
<i>Program Name</i>	<i>Client</i>	<i>Bus Model</i>	<i>Production time adjusted for all non-manufacturer delays (months)</i>
NILESAT 101	Nilesat	Eurostar 2000	31
ST-1	Optus-SingTel	Eurostar 2000+	28
ARABSAT 2D/HOT BIRD 5	Eutelsat	Eurostar 2000+	29
AFRISTAR 1	Worldspace	Eurostar 2000+	33
ASIASTAR 1	Worldspace	Eurostar 2000+	50
NILESAT 102	Nilesat	Eurostar 2000	18
EUTELSAT W1	Eutelsat	Eurostar 2000+	25
ASTRA 2B	SES Astra	Eurostar 2000+	47
HOTBIRD 7	Eutelsat	Eurostar 2000+	23
HELLAS SAT 2	Hellas Sat	Eurostar 2000+	36
<i>Average production schedule (contract signing to launch)</i>			32