

## New contracts for MEASAT

### Malaysia

Binariang Satellite Systems Sdn. Bhd. has announced that Solar Entertainment Corporation (Solar) has signed an agreement to use the MEASAT-1 satellite for broadcast distribution services for four television channels.

"Solar is one of the key broadcasters in the Philippines, and we welcome them on board MEASAT-1," said Paul Brown-Kenyon, MEASAT's Vice President, Sales and Marketing. "For broadcasters looking for distribution across the Southeast and East Asian regions, MEASAT-1 provides excellent regional coverage and a reliable satellite platform. We are seeing increased interest in the use of MEASAT-1 for video distribution as broad-

casters prepare for the deployment of MEASAT-3 into the same location in mid-2005," he continued.

A leader in the creation, promotion and distribution of entertainment and sports programming services, Solar will use MEASAT-1 for distribution of the Solar Sports, Ultimate Suspense/Action, Entertainment Central and Sports Plus television channels to a nationwide network of over 500 cable operators within the Philippines.

In separate news, Binariang has also announced that K.C.S. Cambodia Co. Ltd. (K.C.S. Cambodia) has signed an agreement to use the MEASAT satellite network for the distribution of their television channel.

"We are extremely excited to welcome K.C.S. Cambodia as a new video customer on the MEASAT network" said Brown-Kenyon. He then went on to say: "We wish K.C.S. Cambodia continued success as they strengthen their position in the Cambodian market, and expand internationally across Asia and into the North America region, and look forward to a long and successful collaboration."

Finally, Binariang, has reported that System Televisyen Malaysia Berhad (TV3) has renewed a long term agreement to use the MEASAT satellite system for the distribution of the TV3 television channel across the region.

"TV3 is one of the leading

television channels in Malaysia, with a strong and growing regional viewership" said Brown-Kenyon. "We have supported TV3 since 1999 with satellite distribution services, and are delighted to be able to continue this relationship."

TV3 will continue to use the MEASAT-1 satellite for satellite distribution services for the next 12 months, migrating to the MEASAT-3 satellite after launch (expected mid-05). MEASAT-3 will be co-located with MEASAT-1 at the 91.5°E orbital location, providing redundant C and Ku-band satellite capacity.

"We thank TV3 for their support, and look forward to continuing a long and successful partnership," said Brown-Kenyon. ■

## AsiaSat and Satlink announce launch of a digital platform on AsiaSat 2

### Hong Kong

Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited (AsiaSat) and Satlink Communications have announced the launch of a Multiple Channels per Carrier (MCPC) digital platform on AsiaSat 2 satellite's C-band coverage beam offering connectivity from Europe to Asia and Australasia.

The launch of this new platform will enable European broadcasters to expand their potential coverage to the Asia Pacific region through Satlink's turnaround and transmission facilities in Israel.

AsiaSat 2, one of AsiaSat's high power satellites orbiting at 100.5 degrees East, offers wide C-band coverage stretching from Turkey and Egypt to Australia and New Zealand.

Satlink will provide broadcasters with a single-hop transmission solution to distribute their channels to cable head-ends, re-broadcasters and indi-

vidual home viewers in the region. The enormous footprint also allows European corporations to establish connectivity with their offices in Asia and Australasia.

"With the addition of this powerful and popular satellite, we are well positioned to support

the transmission needs of European broadcasters to head-ends in Asia and Australasia," said Avital Alshech, Director of Marketing and Sales for Satlink Communications. "The Asian region remains a very important market for us and the addition of a full transponder platform on

AsiaSat 2 satellite will help us provide the connectivity and power that broadcasters and corporations are asking for."

"This partnership supports our strategy to further develop neighbourhood and penetration," said Peter Jackson, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of AsiaSat. "We anticipate that the addition of this cost effective platform will attract more broadcasters and corporate users to enjoy the exceptional power, coverage and access offered by AsiaSat 2." ■

## GlobeCast adds Tokyo to its global fibre network

### Japan

GlobeCast has announced the extension of its global fibre network to Japan as a result of a deal struck with Japanese telecommunications operator KDDI. Japanese and international broadcasters can now backhaul their ad-hoc or permanent video feeds to Japan, or distribute them from Tokyo to the rest of the world, via GlobeCast's global fibre network.

The Tokyo Point-of-Presence (PoP) is linked via a fully redundant fibre optic link from Tokyo directly to GlobeCast's Los Angeles teleport, the West Coast access to GlobeCast's global fibre network. In addition to Tokyo and Los Angeles, GlobeCast's fibre network includes nine other PoPs: New York, Washington D.C., Miami, London, Madrid, Paris, Rome, Singapore and Sydney. The interconnection between the points-of-presence and GlobeCast's 15 teleports and technical operations centres allows the operator to offer customers hybrid satellite/fibre solutions satisfying all possible video or multimedia transmission requirements.

The new circuit can move video between Tokyo and the rest of the world using dedicated 8Mbit/s and 18Mbit/s routes. Higher bandwidth circuits can also be provided.

KDDI is supplying GlobeCast with the Tokyo PoP, the Tokyo-Los Angeles link as well as connectivity with all Japanese broadcasters and international bureaux installed in Tokyo. ■



## SUIRG: increasing incidents of interference due to cost and training shortcuts

### Global

The continual drive by satellite network operators to cut or control costs is contributing to a rise in Radiofrequency Interference (RFI) incidents and adversely impacting the satellite communications industry, according to a leading industry group dedicated to combating or mitigating the effects of RFI in satellite transmissions.

Representatives of over 30 satellite operators, equipment makers and transmission identification companies gathered on 29-30 September in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida for the annual meeting of the Satellite Users Interference Reduction Group (SUIRG). Among the many examples cited for causes of RFI incidents experienced by their companies were spurious transmissions, faulty or dirty cables/connections, VHF radio interference with a satellite uplink chain and the increase of uplinkers with minimal technical training, particularly in emerging regions of the globe.

According to many of the satellite operator representatives, tracking down and identifying the source of RFI can range from weeks to months of man-hours. The increase in troubleshooting service load and re-

lated reduction in bandwidth availability during interference incidents is placing an increasingly onerous cost burden on satellite operators.

This burden is reflected in transponder sale or lease prices, which are ultimately shouldered by network operators and customers alike. The time and costs expended identifying the geo-location of interference sources could be considerably reduced if transmit signal identification was implemented, members agreed.

### Quality equipment

Providing incentives to satellite network managers to invest in quality equipment, rigorous maintenance and professional training for their uplink technicians would benefit the entire industry, according to Robert W. Ames, Jr., SUIRG President. "Interference problems with satellite transmissions hurt our entire industry, not just from a cost standpoint, but also from the perspective of our reliability reputation at a time when competitive pressures from fibre are at an all time high," he said.

In addition to executives of major satellite operators Intelsat, PanAmSat, Inmarsat, SES

Americom, Eutelsat, Loral Skynet, NewSkies, SatMex and others, the SUIRG annual meeting included presentations from signal identification or transmitter geo-location system companies discussing developments in their respective market technologies.

Rick Grenwis of US-based Transmitter Locations Systems, LLC and Mark L. Parry of UK-based QiniteQ described their respective products that can identify ground- or ship-borne signals and locate an interference source within minutes. However, according to James Budden, SUIRG chairman and VP, Operations of NewSkies Satellite, the challenge for large satellite operators with multiple uplink sites is determining the most cost effective placements of these transmitter location systems. "The real goal is to get these systems out there at a price that is affordable to operators and sustainable by providers," he claimed. While there was some discussion about the benefits of satellite operators collectively supporting a TLS system, such as wider deployment and shared costs, attendees agreed that company firewalls and differing IT systems posed signifi-

cant hurdles that would need to be surmounted. The group agreed to investigate ways to make such collaboration effective.

The real issue, everyone agreed, lies with reducing the number and types of RFI incidents. This requires greater outreach on the part of the satellite operators, intensified efforts by hardware and software suppliers to build affordable transmission with signal ID capability, and most importantly, a good faith effort by satellite uplinkers to provide their technicians with appropriate levels of training as part of an industry-wide recognised satellite operator certification programme and to purchase and maintain quality RF transmission equipment.

"Radio frequency interference is a major problem for all of us," declared Budden. "It will only get worse as two degree spacing fills up and new, inexperienced network operators, driven by costs, increasingly neglect technician training and minimise equipment maintenance. RFI is a quality of service issue that relates directly to the reputation of our industry and the satisfaction of satellite service customers," he added. ■

## IPSTAR-1 satellite completes dynamic 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 completed its mechanical qualification checks, called 'dynamic testing'. The spacecraft underwent launch configuration for the dynamic tests with all antennas and solar arrays installed and stowed. IPSTAR-1 was then subjected to vibration and acoustic en-

vironments that simulated the forces it will experience at launch. Other testing concerned deploying the antennas and solar arrays, assuring mechanical alignment and quality. This test effectively confirms the integrity of the spacecraft and its ability to withstand launch stresses.

The dynamic tests followed stringent thermal vacuum tests in early August during which the spacecraft successfully completed all electrical qualification

tests, including the ability of the bus and payload to withstand the simulated heat and cold it will experience in the vacuum of space.

The spacecraft will next undergo transmit and receive performance testing and final antenna pattern testing in the Compact Antenna Range Test. Final testing will be concluded by December 2004.

The satellite is now on schedule for launch around February to March 2005. ■

## In Brief

### Japan

New Skies Satellites N.V. has been awarded a Radio Station License by the Japanese Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. This license, in combination with the Telecom Business Registration granted to New Skies in July of this year, enables them to offer international and domestic services directly to both Japanese and non-Japanese companies for links to, from and within Japan. ■



## Revised plan of reorganisation for Loral

### US/Global

Loral Space & Communications Ltd. and the Creditors' Committee appointed in the chapter 11 cases of Loral have announced that they reached an agreement on revised economic terms of a proposed plan of reorganization (Plan).

The company expects to exit chapter 11 under current management in the First Quarter (Q1) of 2005.

The Plan, which revises the terms of a Plan previously filed on 19 August 2004, is the product of continued negotiations between the company and the Creditors' Committee and is subject to final documentation and the resolution of certain other

issues between the company and the Creditors' Committee and confirmation by the bankruptcy court.

It provides, among other things, that:

- Loral's two businesses, Space Systems/Loral and Loral Skynet, will emerge intact as separate subsidiaries of reorganized Loral (New Loral).
- Space Systems/Loral, the satellite design and manufacturing business, will emerge debt-free;
- The common stock of New Loral will be owned by Loral bondholders, Loral Orion bondholders and other

unsecured creditors. In addition, bondholders of Loral Orion and other unsecured creditors of Loral Orion will receive an aggregate of US\$200 million in new senior secured notes to be issued by reorganised Loral Skynet, New Loral's satellite services subsidiary;

- Loral Orion unsecured creditors also will be offered the right to subscribe to purchase their pro-rata share of \$30 million in new senior secured notes to be issued by reorganised Loral Skynet;
- Based upon current estimates, creditors of Space Systems/Loral, Loral

SpaceCom Corporation and Loral Satellite, Inc. will be entitled to share in a recovery consisting primarily of cash, as well as New Loral common stock that is expected to result in a blended recovery of approximately 33 per cent, subject to significant decrease in the event claims materially exceed current estimates; and

- New Loral will emerge as a public company and will seek listing on a major stock exchange. Existing common and preferred stock will be cancelled and no distribution will be made to current shareholders. ■

## NDS to provide content protection system to Intelsat

### Global

News Corporation's NDS has announced that it is providing Intelsat with its Synamedia system in order to evaluate the latest IPTV technology. The NDS solution will enable Intelsat to test the operational and performance aspects of IPTV technology.

IPTV enables cable and telecommunications operators to offer improved and next-generation TV services over existing broadband networks. NDS Synamedia is a complete solution for the secure delivery of TV and Video On Demand (VOD) content over broadband IP networks.

Based on NDS's proven VideoGuard encryption technology, Synamedia provides operators with a trusted security solution that meets the high demands of content providers for high value premium content.

The system supplied to Intelsat includes Alcatel's Open Media Suite (OMS) and set-top boxes from Amino.

Alcatel's OMS enables serv-

ice providers to create, deliver and manage broadcast TV, VOD, personal video recording, electronic programme guides, web browsing and email as part of a comprehensive triple play offering.

The Amino range of set-top box products provides a truly cost effective means for the telco or internet service provider to deploy a broadband TV service.

The Synamedia system will provide set-top box authentication, real-time encryption of multicast TV content and pre-encryption of VOD content. The system is compliant with international interoperable standards allowing for simultaneous operation of similar systems.

The complete system to be supplied provides Intelsat with an integrated end-to-end implementation of secure broadband TV services delivered to an IPTV set-top box.

"As IPTV in North America begins to gain momentum, telecommunications operators must ensure that they can protect content against piracy while

delivering the high quality entertainment that customers demand," said Dr. Dov Rubin, VP and General Manager, NDS

Americas. "NDS is excited that Intelsat has chosen to test this application using our technology." ■

## Telstra chooses AsiaSat

### Hong Kong

Australia's Telstra Corporation Ltd. and Hong Kong-based Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited (AsiaSat) have announced the signing of a master relationship agreement that further expands the existing partnership between the two companies on the provision of rural broadband services in Australia.

This agreement confirms AsiaSat as integral to Telstra's transponder capacity in Australia. It also establishes a framework for Telstra to take up additional transponder capacity on AsiaSat's satellite fleet in the future.

Telstra is currently using AsiaSat 3S's Ku-band capacity for the provision of two-way BigPond via satellite broadband

services across Australia, serving particularly the remote outback and rural areas.

"This agreement further strengthens our partnership with Telstra and affirms AsiaSat's long track record of high quality service across the Asia Pacific region and demonstrates our willingness to provide a flexible satellite solution that meets our customer's expansion requirement. AsiaSat's exceptional Ku-band coverage complements and enhances Telstra's broadband solutions, allowing services to be available almost anywhere, and to anyone in Australia. We look forward to providing more support to Telstra's expanding broadband services across the country," said Peter Jackson, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of AsiaSat. ■



## Azerbaijan joins Intersputnik

### Azerbaijan/Russia

The Republic of Azerbaijan has joined the Intersputnik International Organisation of Space Communications. In May 2004 Azerbaijan's decision to accede to Intersputnik was approved by the Milli Mejlis (Parliament) and in September 2004 the depositary-government represented by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs received instruments of ratification of Intersputnik's regulatory documents by the Republic of Azerbaijan.

While on an official visit in Baku, Intersputnik's delegation headed by Director General Gennady Kudryavtsev met on 27 September with Ali Mamed oglu

Abbasov, Minister of Communications and Information Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan, who signed the Operating Agreement of Intersputnik - an international interdepartmental agreement. Parties to this Agreement are national telecommunications organisations (Signatories) appointed by the governments.

In addition, Abbasov and Kudryavtsev discussed the current situation on the satellite communications market in the region, Azerbaijan's government policy in the field of information technologies and the interaction of the Telecommunications Administration of Azerbaijan with

Intersputnik.

On 28 September Intersputnik's delegation was received by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan Artur Tahir oglu Rasizadeh.

"The co-operation among Azerbaijan and Intersputnik's member-countries meets mutual interests.

"Azerbaijan is ready to participate in all aspects of the Organization's activity," noted Rasizadeh.

Having thanked the Prime Minister for the cordial welcome, Gennady Kudryavtsev stressed that Intersputnik attaches much importance to the agreement and new level of co-operation

with Azerbaijan.

"We feel that there exists a huge potential for the development of the satellite communications market in the country and the Caspian region as a whole. The accession of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Intersputnik Organization will undoubtedly further this development," Kudryavtsev said.

Established in 1971 under the intergovernmental agreement on the establishment of an international system and organization of satellite communications, Intersputnik is an international intergovernmental organization headquartered in Moscow. ■

## PanAmSat and Globecast launch PanGlobal TV

### Australia

PanAmSat Corporation has announced that it has teamed up with GlobeCast, to launch PanGlobal TV. Hosted on the PAS-8 Pacific Ocean Region (POR) satellite, this new Australian Direct-To-Home (DTH) platform will target international broadcasters wanting to reach Australia's five million multicultural viewers.

"By joining forces with GlobeCast to form PanGlobal TV, PanAmSat has added another dimension to its already varied Asia-Pacific satellite offerings," said David Ball, Vice President (VP), Asia Pacific sales, PanAmSat. "International customers looking to distribute their programming to Australia's vibrant Pay TV market will be able to access an established DTH neighborhood of more than 60,000 homes, where the necessary antennas have already been deployed. This is the ideal opportunity to reach a fast-growing market."

"GlobeCast is a leading DTH

service provider worldwide, including in Australia with its successful DTH platforms," said Mark Lobwein, DTH Sales Manager, GlobeCast Australia. "Through our relationship with PanAmSat, GlobeCast greatly expands its satellite portfolio over Australia, and its ability to offer customers a choice of DTH distribution paths to this dynamic market."

PanGlobal TV's customer base will target international broadcasters who wish to reach Australia's diverse multi-cultural communities. The service will transmit channel signals from either GlobeCast Australia's Sydney teleport or the PanAmSat Napa Valley teleport. In addition to digital encoding, signal processing and transport, PanAmSat and GlobeCast Australia will uplink the space segment to the PAS-8 Ku-Band Australia beam. PanGlobal TV offers backhaul to either the Napa teleport or the Sydney teleport by satellite, fibre or hybrid satellite/fibre contribution. ■

## Gilat announces first SkyEdge contract with Australia's Optus

### Australia

Gilat Satellite Networks Ltd is to supply SingTel Optus, Australia's second largest telecommunications company, with a SkyEdge hub and remote sites for the expansion of Optus' already existing Gilat networks, which will be upgraded to SkyEdge as well. SkyEdge is Gilat's recently announced revolutionary, unified platform supporting a variety of applications and topologies including mesh, star and multi-star.

The agreement with Optus is the first SkyEdge contract to be announced following a successful beta phase. The deployment and upgrade of the network is expected to be completed in the Fourth Quarter (Q4) of 2004.

Optus operates two-way satellite services throughout Australia and New Zealand based predominantly on Gilat's 360 and 360E systems, which will now be expanded to SkyEdge as well. The existing Gilat network is already being used by Optus to deliver distance-learning services to small rural towns and isolated homesteads in New South Wales (NSW) and across the Northern Territory (NT). The network will now be expanded to support additional distance learning applications, health, rural broadband for Small Office Home Office (SOHO) and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) as well as total solutions for corporations throughout Australia.

"We are pleased to continue our relationship with Gilat and are confident that this upgrade will enable us to improve the quality and range of services we supply to our customers," said Warren Hardy, Managing Director of Optus Wholesale and Satellite. Oded Sheshinski, Gilat's Manager for Australia-Pacific, said "This agreement with Optus is a natural extension of the successful operation of our network in the past and Optus's satisfaction with our technology, solutions and customer support." ■

