

ITU and Thuraya forge partnership

UAE

The International Telecommunication Union and Thuraya Satellite Telecommunications Company have concluded an agreement to provide portable satellite terminals to assist countries in disaster mitigation and relief.

Thuraya, the United Arab Emirates satellite-based company, is contributing handheld satellite terminals along with solar chargers; ITU will pay for airtime at discounted rates offered by Thuraya and cover the transportation costs of telecommunications equipment to and from disaster-hit areas. ITU will also provide its expertise in technical and operational training for government officials involved in rescue missions.

In the light of a spate of natural disasters and calamities in recent times, the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-06) meeting in Doha in March 2006 called upon ITU to develop ICT-based solutions in emergency telecommunications directed at improving early-warning communication, disaster preparedness and mitigation. This is a critical area of concern especially for countries with fragile economies and special needs, such as least devel-

oped countries and small island developing states.

"The tsunami that wreaked havoc in south East Asia, the Kashmir earthquake, the Suriname floods, and the Indonesia earthquake have demonstrated the power of emergency telecommunications in saving lives and coordinating efforts during rescue operations such as the setting up of telemedicine links," said ITU Secretary-General Yoshio Utsumi.

Access to information

Access to information is of paramount importance in the immediate aftermath of a disaster for relief agencies to coordinate search-and-rescue, medical intervention and rehabilitation efforts. There is an urgent need to establish effective and comprehensive communication links between the affected area, national disaster response facilities, and with the larger international community. Ironically, terrestrial communication links are almost always disabled and disrupted during the first hours of a major disaster.

The Thuraya terminals, which support voice and data applications and remote location determination services via GPS,

will help provide that vital link via satellite.

When regular cellular networks are available, the GSM-enabled Thuraya handsets can switch to the terrestrial network for greater affordability.

"One of the pillars leading to the success of our work in this area rests on multi-stakeholder partnerships," said Cosmas Zavazava, ITU Focal Point for Emergency Telecommunications. "It is in this respect that we welcome the contribution by Thuraya Satellite Telecommunications Company, a Member of ITU's Development Sector."

Partnerships

Thuraya CEO Yousuf Al Sayed agreed that the responsiveness

of relief efforts can be made more effective through such partnerships. "As a leading multi-regional mobile satellite operator, Thuraya is committed to contributing towards world needs during rescue and emergency operations, and we are pleased to partner and work closely with ITU and concerned UN agencies to provide urgent communications support in disaster-hit areas," Mr Al Sayed said. "The responsiveness of relief efforts can be made much more efficient through such partnerships." ITU will provide the Thuraya satellite handheld terminals to rescue teams, government authorities and humanitarian agencies to establish vital communication links for relief and rehabilitation efforts. The communication link will also help victims locate their families and seek personal assistance. ●

Andrew Rejects unsolicited acquisition proposal

The board of directors of Andrew Corporation, a global leader in communications systems and products, has voted unanimously to reject the unsolicited proposal from CommScope, Inc. to acquire Andrew for \$9.50 per share in cash.

"The board carefully reviewed and considered CommScope's proposal and found it does not adequately reflect the value of Andrew, its business prospects, and its industry-leading products, global customer base, and skilled global workforce," said Ralph Faison, President and Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Corporation.

ORBCOMM signs agreements with Orbital Sciences and OHB-System A.G.

US

ORBCOMM, a global satellite data communications company, announced that it has signed agreements for the manufacture and launch of at least six replenishment satellites.

This phase of ORBCOMM's satellite replenishment program is being carried out by two firms; Orbital Sciences Corporation (NYSE:ORB) and OHB-System A.G.

Together, these two contracts will deliver complete satellites for launch currently planned for the latter half of 2007 as part of ORBCOMM's satellite

replenishment program, which will replace and enhance ORBCOMM's Low-Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite constellation to meet the needs of its growing customer base. The agreement with Orbital Sciences Corporation is for six satellite communications payloads and includes options for two additional payloads. The agreement with OHB-System A.G. includes six satellite buses, the services to integrate the buses with the Orbital Sciences payloads and launch of the satellites using a COSMOS 3M rocket.

"This is the first phase of our plans to replenish our existing fleet of satellites," said John Stolte, ORBCOMM's Executive Vice President, Technology and Operations. "These satellites will add several improved features to our existing fleet of low-Earth orbit, or LEO satellites and are designed to provide our customers with improved service while maintaining full compatibility with existing subscriber equipment that is deployed today. These satellites will also add Automatic Identification System (AIS) receiving capability to our satellites

for the first time. They will also contain an additional set of receivers to increase the messaging capacity of each satellite."

The AIS system is designed to facilitate the efficient broadcast of navigational data from ships to meet the need for global maritime surveillance of shipping traffic. The ORBCOMM constellation will be the first commercial space-based detection system for AIS messages, greatly expanding the capabilities of the system over today's system of terrestrial radio towers. ●

Intersputnik Holding to build earth stations for Golden Telecom satellite network

RUSSIA

Intersputnik Holding, a subsidiary of the Intersputnik International Organization of Space Communications, won a tender to design, build and put into operation satellite earth stations for Golden Telecom satellite network in the territory of the Russian Federation.

According to the results of the tender Intersputnik Holding is entrusted with equipment supply, assembly, startup and commissioning, as well as technical maintenance of new satellite earth stations of the Golden Telecom network in the territory of Siberian, Far Eastern, Northwestern and Urals federal districts.

The above scope of work will be performed by ISATEL Plc, a

Russian operator being a member of Intersputnik Holding group of companies, in consortium with JSC Moscow Teleport and JSC Satis-TL-94.

Commenting on the tender results President of Intersputnik Holding Oleg Timoshenko said: "Partnership relations between Intersputnik and Golden Telecom in terms of satellite resource lease have existed for several years. For Intersputnik Holding the decision of Golden Telecom means an excellent opportunity to implement our potential as a provider of full-scale solutions."

At present Golden Telecom is one of the major lessees of Intersputnik satellite capacity. Recently the company signed an

agreement with Intersputnik on the lease of three transponders on Express-AM-series satellites in addition to the LMI-1 satellite resource leased earlier.

Considering the successful longstanding partnership and the tender results, Golden Telecom and Intersputnik signed an agreement on cooperation in providing satellite communica-

tion services using Intersputnik system capacities to third parties as well as in other projects related to the establishment and operation of fixed satellite service networks.

The agreement was signed by President of Golden Telecom Alexander Vinogradov and Director General of Intersputnik Vadim Belov. ●

Andrew Corporation and ADC Telecommunications Inc. have mutually agreed to terminate the merger agreement announced on May 31, 2006.

The companies believe that current market considerations raised serious questions about the ability to obtain necessary shareholder approval. Therefore, Andrew and ADC have agreed to terminate the merger agreement without liability to either party. To effect the mutual termination, Andrew has agreed to pay ADC \$10 million. In addition, Andrew has agreed that ADC would be paid another \$65 million in the event Andrew effects a business combination transaction within 12 months.

"While we still believe in the convergence strategy, the merger of Andrew and ADC was only one method to execute against that," said Ralph Faison, President and Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Corporation. "We are confident in our ability to address the current and future needs of our customers and shareholders as an independent company.

"Andrew's industry-leading product portfolio and globally diversified customer base provide the company with a unique ability to meet the long-term global demand trends for wireless infrastructure. Andrew remains in a strong position to offer industry-leading support to operators, OEMs, and other communications providers around the world. As evidenced by our record sales and orders in our fiscal third quarter, we are growing share and improving operations through innovative products and the hard work of our global team. Our management team and employees are committed to delivering results and capitalizing on business opportunities that will drive future operational and financial improvements. We are confident in the outlook for our future."

EMC is granted ISO 9001 certification

US

Emerging Markets Communications Inc. (EMC) was recently granted ISO 9001 Certification. ISO (International Organization for Standardization) is a non-governmental organization and the world's largest developer of standards. ISO standards make a positive contribution to the world we live in by ensuring vital features such as quality, ecology, safety, economy, reliability, compatibility, interoperability, efficiency and effectiveness.

3rd party auditing process

After undergoing a third-party auditing process, it has been deemed that EMC's Quality Management System complies with ISO 9001:2000 standard requirements.

EMC's mission is to design high quality, fully-managed private telecommunications services that include every link on the network chain.

This goal will enable their

customers to have all the telecommunications elements required to efficiently operate in Emerging Markets, at a fixed cost, and within a predetermined timeframe.

"EMC believes that Quality is a key attribute to its products and services and the ISO 9001 Certification is the result of our efforts to achieve this Quality Management System level" explains Walter Catone, Quality Assurance Manager of EMC.

The ISO 9001 certification affirms that EMC's management is customer-focused, and attests to EMC's commitment to improve customer satisfaction.

Quality management system

EMC is now moving forward with the implementation of the TL 9000 Quality Management System, which provides a telecommunications-specific set of requirements built on ISO 9001:2000. The purpose of TL

9000 is to define the telecommunications quality management system requirements for the design, development, production, delivery, installation, and maintenance of products: hardware, software, and services.

TL 9000 includes performance-based measurements that quantify reliability and quality performance of these products. The process completion date is

projected for the last quarter of 2006, with the TL 9000 Certification. In this way,

EMC will become part of the highly exclusive group of companies worldwide that are TL 9000 Certified.

The Quality Management System of Emerging Markets Communications is ISO 9001-2000 certified by IRAM (RI 9000-1670). ●

Intelsat General Corporation signs long-term agreement

US

Intelsat General Corporation (IGC), a leading provider of broadband satellite solutions to the commercial and government markets, has announced that MilSat Services GmbH, a company set up by EADS Space Services and ND SatCom, signed a 10-year contract for leased satellite services.

MilSat Services GmbH, a Bremen, Germany based company, was established to provide the satellite communication system for the German Armed Forces' SatcomBw Step 2 program.

Under the 10-year agreement, Intelsat General Corporation will supply C- and Ku-band leased services over several Intelsat satellites providing coverage ranging from Eastern Asia to the Americas.

"It is a privilege to support acknowledged European leaders in the defense marketplace such as EADS Space Services

and ND SatCom, in their efforts to supply secure military infrastructure and services to deployed forces operating anywhere in the world," said John Klingelhoefter, Acting President, Intelsat General Corporation.

Intelsat General Corporation, a subsidiary of Intelsat, Ltd., offers a range of cost-effective, secure communications infrastructure and solutions including satellite bandwidth on Intelsat or other satellite systems, man-

aged networks services leveraging numerous broadband platforms, mobile satellite services, teleport and fiber backhaul services as well as a range of remote terminal and customer premise equipment. ●

GlobeCast launches Korean television channel KBS World into the Middle East

International Korean television channel KBS WORLD has now reached the Middle East following a distribution partnership between leading content management and delivery company, GlobeCast, Korea's public broadcaster, Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) and satellite operator Arabsat.

KBS WORLD is received by Arabsat from the PAS10 satellite in Jordan's Media City, where it is multiplexed and uplinked onto the GlobeCast's platform on Arabsat 2D for Free-to-Air DTH distribution throughout the Middle East. Located at 25.8°E, the Arabsat 2D platform provides exceptional coverage of the Middle East and Northern Africa and will allow KBS WORLD to serve the rapidly expanding Asian community in this region

GlobeCast has a long established relationship with KBS, providing ad hoc contribution services for events such as the World Cup and Olympics, as well as content and delivery services for affiliate channel, Sun Channel, on the Hot Bird satellite over Europe.

Founded in 2003, KBS WORLD is KBS's 24-hour international television network offering a broad range of content from its two main channels 1TV and 2TV. The line up includes up-to-the-minute news from Korea, dramas, variety shows, children's programs and sports coverage. By adding English subtitles to quality dramas and documentaries, KBS WORLD also strives to give non-Koreans a better understanding of Korea and its culture.

ILC Partnership with Soluziona Targets Broadcasters and Telecom Operators

Spain

ILC, developer of network management software for communications networks, has inked a new partnership with Soluziona, a multi-sector IT consultancy based in Spain with over 5,000 employees and 28 offices worldwide. Soluziona's Telecommunications and Media Unit is now offering ILC's MaxView software as a core component of its network management practice, targeting broadcasters and telecommunications globally but with a special emphasis on Spain and Latin America.

"Our broadcast and telecommunications customers are all facing the challenge of needing to deliver reliable, high quality services over networks comprised of many different, converged technologies," explains Tomas de Miguel, Chief of Op-

erating Office of Soluziona. "After surveying the network management marketplace, we felt that MaxView was clearly the most powerful and easy to use solution we could offer. MaxView's ability to consolidate and automate the management of these hybrid networks in a single interface provides compelling benefits to the bottom line."

First joint customer win

The first joint customer win from the ILC/Soluziona partnership is the EITB Group, the leading broadcaster in the Basque Country of Spain. EITB operates four television stations and five radio stations broadcasting daily to over a million people. "MaxView greatly simplifies the manner in which our engineers manage the many different

broadcast technologies and equipment that we must continually add to our network," said Igor Jainaga, Project Manager for EITB. "Along with simplicity comes cost efficiencies and a higher quality of service, which are vitally important operational goals."

With more than 600 systems deployed on every continent, the MaxView Suite enables full off-the-shelf management, control and automation of all the equipment and technologies in satellite, video and other broadband networks. "Soluziona is an outstanding IT solution provider that is well positioned to market MaxView as the management platform of choice in this era of convergence," said Mark Krikorian, Chief Operating Officer of ILC. "We are thrilled here

at ILC to launch this new partnership."

Higher quality of service

MaxView enables service providers to achieve a higher quality of service (QoS), automate critical network operations, and lower their operational costs. From one console, MaxView manages and controls hybrid networks and their converged technologies such as satellite, broadcast, IP, IT, ATM, microwave, and other related technologies, facilities and equipment.

Functionally, MaxView performs end-to-end provisioning, event scheduling and activation, self-healing automation, alarm correlation, carrier monitoring, spectrum planning, tailored reporting and more. ●

Lockheed Martin completes 5th modernized GPS satellite

US

Lockheed Martin has announced that it has completed the fifth in a series of eight modernized Global Positioning System (GPS) IIR satellites that the company is developing for the US Air Force. The spacecraft are the most technologically advanced GPS satellites ever developed and will provide significantly improved navigation performance for US military and civilian users worldwide.

The modernized program, known as GPS IIR-M, is being performed at Lockheed Martin's facilities in Valley Forge, Pa., and ITT Industries in Clifton, N.J. The spacecraft offer a variety of enhanced features for GPS users, such as two new signals and enhanced encryption and anti-jamming capabilities for the mili-

tary, as well as a second civil signal, thus providing military and civilian users with greatly improved navigation capabilities.

"We're proud to have completed work on the fifth GPS IIR-M spacecraft," said Don DeGryse, Lockheed Martin's Vice President of Navigation Systems. "The success of this modernization program is direct testimony to the strong partnership forged between Lockheed Martin and the Air Force to tackle the important objective of providing state-of-the-art navigation services for the US military and civilian users across the globe."

Completed satellites are delivered to storage and become available for launch when requested by the Air Force. The team is now preparing for the

second IIR-M mission scheduled for launch on Sept. 14, 2006 from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla.

Designated GPS IIR-15(M) the satellite will join the first modernized IIR satellite declared operational for GPS users last year and 12 other operational Block IIR satellites currently on-orbit within the overall 29-spacecraft constellation.

GPS provides such essential services as situational awareness and precision weapon guidance for the military. It is also an information resource supporting a wide range of civil, scientific and commercial functions – from air traffic control to the Internet – with precision location and timing information.

Air Force Space Command's

2nd Space Operations Squadron (2SOPS), based at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., manages and operates the GPS constellation for both civil and military users.

Lockheed Martin is also leading a team competing to build the next-generation Global Positioning System, known as GPS Block III.

The new program will address the challenging military transformational and civil needs across the globe, including advanced anti-jam capabilities, improved system security and accuracy, and reliability.

GPS Block III will enhance space-based navigation and performance and set a new world standard for positioning and timing services. ●

9Live and Atlas Interactive start Call-TV- Windows in 22 Arabian countries

Germany

In mid-September, quiz station 9Live will be launching a special call TV window in 22 Arab countries. The Munich interactive TV channel has reached an agreement with Atlas Interactive, an international provider of access and billing solutions, to broadcast a four-hour call show on the Mlive channel. The live program "9Live Arabia" will air from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Agreements with additional stations are currently being negotiated.

Atlas Group of Companies owns Mlive, which is available to some 300 million people in the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe. 9Live Arabia will be carried via Eutelsat and Arabsat to Arabic speaking countries, including North Africa (Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania), the Middle-East (Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Yemen) as well as some Euro-

pean countries. The new 9Live call TV window is internationally marketed by ProSiebenSat.1 Group's worldwide marketer, SevenOne International.

9Live Arabia will be produced and broadcast from the 9Live studios in Unterföhring, near Munich. The venture calls for 9Live to act as a full-service provider for the daily Arab call TV show, from technical implementation to casting hosts and processing winnings.

Says 9Live Chairman Marcus Wolter: "I'm delighted at this cooperative venture. With our unique know-how in high-quality and highly profitable call TV, we hope to expand the call TV business model successfully to the Arabic-speaking countries as well. We've already produced a call TV show for the United Kingdom, proving that 9Live can be a success internationally."

Said Jens Richter, Managing Director of SevenOne Interna-

tional: "We included 9Live in our portfolio only four months ago, and we're delighted to have such a stunning success in such a short time. With its many broadcasters, the Arab region is a very complex but also very exciting market for us, with immense potential."

President Jean Michel Alfieri of the Atlas Group of Companies

adds: "This is a unique opportunity to benefit from both partners' skills to transplant a proven business model into a region that can expect tremendous growth in the next few years. The Atlas Group has been operating in the Arabic region for years now, and we're delighted to implement a high-quality program such as 9Live in the region." ●

VTV renews agreement

MEASAT Satellite System Sdn. Bhd. has announced that Vietnam Television ("VTV"), the national broadcaster of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, has renewed its agreement to lease MEASAT-2 Ku-band capacity for the countries Direct to Home (DTH) Pay-TV service.

"VTV is Vietnam's leading Pay-TV operator, supporting a large and rapidly expanding customer base" said Diego Sutachan, MEASAT's Vice President, Sales and Marketing. "We have had the privilege of providing VTV with satellite capacity for their DTH operations since its launch and are delighted to be able to announce the continuation of this partnership."

Verso announces strategic partnership with Alcatel

International

Verso Technologies, Inc. (Nasdaq: VRSO), a global provider of next generation network solutions, has announced a strategic partnership agreement with Alcatel Alenia Space, a global leader in satellite systems and orbital infrastructures.

The partnership creates a global distribution channel for the Verso NetPerformer IP GSM Backhaul Solution, a specific evolution for Alcatel Alenia Space of the existing Verso NetPerformer series compatible with the Alcatel Wireless Access Backhaul via Satellite solution marketed under the brand name A9760 WBS

Alcatel Alenia Space focuses on the design, development, and manufacture of space systems, satellites, payloads, orbital infrastructures and space transportation, instruments and associated ground systems for civilian and military applications. The operational headquarters of Alcatel Alenia Space are located

in Cannes, France, with plants in France, Italy, Belgium and Spain. It is the European leader in satellite systems with sales of approximately 1.8 billion euros (2004) and approximately 7,200 employees.

The partnership provides Alcatel Alenia Space with Verso's IP GSM Backhaul solution, a unique leading technology in this sector. The joint solution of Verso and Alcatel Alenia Space is a very cost effective offer for the backhaul via satellite of BTS (Base Transceiver Stations) from their Mobile Core Network. GSM, GPRS or EDGE traffic are compressed and optimized in order to require the smallest satellite bandwidth and reduce operating expenses (OPEX). In addition Alcatel Alenia Space experience and patents in Satcom technologies and on-demand bandwidth allocation (DAMA) enable efficient concentrated transmission systems for the GSM circuits switching.

Industry data indicates that satellite GSM backhaul technology has matured to be recognized as the most efficient means to deliver GSM services in geographically challenged areas, or in areas where conventional terrestrial transmission is not available, as well as a highly cost effective and very light solution to back-up Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) in case of terrestrial network failure. However, industry estimates place satellite transmission backhaul costs at approximately 40 percent of the total OPEX related to a BTS deployment.

"Given the wide scale acceptance and maturity of the technology combined with the associated historical cost implications, operators are carefully selecting partners when designing and deploying satellite net-

work solutions because these partners have a direct impact on the viability and profitability of the project deployed," said Yves Desmet, Senior Vice President, worldwide sales, Verso Technologies. "Alcatel recognized the key value proposition offered by our backhaul solution and will leverage the solution to ensure viability, reliability and profitability on their global GSM deployments."

"This partnership opens a global distribution network for our IP GSM Backhaul Solution via the leading satellite equipment vendor in the world," said Monty Bannerman, Chief Executive officer, Verso Technologies. "The fact that Alcatel has selected Verso as their strategic partner for this market sector shows the obvious value proposition of our technology." ●

Lockheed Martin-built satellite fleet achieves 150 years in orbit

The Lockheed Martin (NYSE:LMT) A2100 communications satellite fleet recently achieved a major milestone by accumulating 150 years of successful in-orbit operations. The A2100 satellite series, designed and manufactured at Lockheed Martin Commercial Space Systems (LMCSS), currently consists of 29 satellites featuring 1156 transponders with an accumulated lifetime of over 6,000 years of successful operations in orbit. The first A2100 satellite, AMC-1, was launched Sept. 8, 1996.

Throughout its 45-year history, LMCSS has launched 88 commercial communications geostationary earth orbit satellites, all of which have achieved a total of 714 in-orbit years. This year, LMCSS delivered the 27th, 28th, and 29th A2100 spacecraft to satellite operators around the world: EchoStar X, launched Feb. 15 aboard Sea Launch; JCSAT-9, lifted into orbit April 12 also by Sea Launch; and ASTRA 1KR, launched April 20 aboard Lockheed Martin's Atlas V.

"LMCSS' world-class technical capabilities, design and engineering, manufacturing and operations are all key factors that contribute to the success of the industry's best, most reliable spacecraft, the A2100," said LMCSS President Ted Gavriliis. "Along with the LMCSS Customer Services organization's excellent support of the A2100 fleet, we are confident that the A2100 will continue to achieve significant operational milestones and build on its already outstanding heritage."

AAE Systems opens new regional office

Singapore

AAE Systems is pleased to announce the opening of a new regional office in Singapore to expand its sales channels throughout the Asia and Pacific market. This new location is in addition to the company's first regional office in the Middle East. AAE has been actively working to find effective ways to service its existing clients and increase its presence in the Asia and Pacific. This new regional office will allow AAE to provide superior

and faster service, as well as offer its highly advanced Eclipse MF-TDMA DAMA VSAT communications solution to the world market using a more effective approach.

Elsewhere, the company has finalized a contract to supply its Eclipse system to an oil company in Oman. The system will be deployed in full-Mesh topology supporting voice and data connectivity for a corporate network. ●

Peter Stier named VP, Marketing and Sales of Sea Launch

US

The Sea Launch Company has named Peter Stier to be Vice President, Marketing and Sales, effective immediately. He re-

places Rob Peckham, who became President and General Manager of the company in June. ●