



## New beginnings

**When Giovanni Verlini left Satellite Evolution** a few weeks ago, little did I know that I would be taking his place. I was both surprised and honoured to be given the opportunity to take over where he left off and I hope that I will be able to continue his excellent work.

After spending four and a half years with the Global VSAT Forum and developing a keen interest in the satellite industry I am delighted to introduce myself to you as the new Editor of the Satellite Evolution Group. I look forward to working with the superb Satellite Evolution Team and to covering the issues that matter to you.

On May 12 2007, the 1720th Soyuz launch was successfully carried out from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Starsem, Arianespace and their Russian partners reported that the Progress cargo spacecraft was accurately placed in the target orbit for another mission to the International Space Station. Starsem have several launches lined up for 2007 including two Globalstar telecommunications satellites, one launch of a Radarsat-2 earth observation satellite and one launch of the Giove-B satellite, the second Galileo In Orbit Validation Element for the European Space Agency.

The introduction of the Soyuz at the Guiana Space Centre (CSG) has affirmed its place as an integral part of the European launcher fleet together with Ariane 5 and Vega. Soyuz can trace its roots back to 1957 with the launch of Sputnik and now Soyuz provides the vehicle for a new generation of space travellers to experience the final frontier – the space tourists. Just recently we witnessed the return of Charles Simonyi from the International Space Station and we are due to hear about the next person who will participate in what seems to be a industry with potential, no matter how far-fetched it may seem to us at the moment.

For those who wish to experience space travel the opportunity is there. Both suborbital and orbital flights are available and a flight in which you may experience zero gravity. Yes, it is hugely expensive but the point is that it is now commercially viable. Several companies are pushing the boundaries and are exploring the possibilities of our staying in space.

Currently, the Soyuz provides the only means of sending space tourists into space so the whole concept is dependent on the creation of new vehicles to get us there. Until then, the Soyuz rockets will continue to carry our satellites, cargo and people into orbit but the door is well and truly open for humankind to make its mark on space.

I very much look forward to meeting you, speaking with you and to a long and happy career with the Satellite Evolution Team.

Helen Jameson - Editor  
Satellite Evolution EMEA

