

Eutelsat opens new neighbourhood

FRANCE

Eutelsat Communications has announced that its HOT BIRD™ 2 satellite has been redeployed to 9 degrees East. Rebranded EUROBIRD™ 9, the satellite's entry into service marks the opening of a new video neighbourhood, which is adjacent to Eutelsat's premium HOT BIRD™ position. Reception of channels from both locations is possible with off-the-shelf dual-feed domestic dishes.

The repositioning of EUROBIRD™ 9 follows the successful launches in 2006 of Eutelsat's HOT BIRD™ 7A and 8 satellites. Together with HOT BIRD™ 6, these large satellites today broadcast more than 1,000 channels, of which over 50 per cent are free-to-air from the Group's 13 degrees East position. Their entry into service has

enabled Eutelsat to pursue the development of its in-orbit resource by redeploing high-performance HOT BIRD™ satellites to other locations with strong growth potential.

Optimised for DTH (Direct-to-Home) broadcasting, EUROBIRD™ 9 delivers 20 fully operational Ku-band transponders supplying coverage across Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. In order to support the market for multi-satellite reception, which is afforded by the proximity of its orbital positions, Eutelsat is developing new low-cost consumer solutions to enable existing HOT BIRD™ installations to be easily upgraded to receive channels from 9 degrees East via a second LNB fitted beside the LNB directed to the HOT BIRD™ neighbourhood.

Eutelsat has already concluded a first contract for capacity on EUROBIRD™ 9 with the Portuguese cable operator TVTEL, which has announced it will shortly launch a new pay-TV platform for the Portuguese market. Using two transponders on the satellite to address principally almost two million television homes in Portugal only receiving analogue over-the-air channels, TVTEL's platform will begin with 20 digital channels. Encrypted with Conax, they will include Portugal's four national channels and a package of 16 thematic channels broadcasting content ranging from movies, documentaries, music, serials, news and sports. TVTEL will also market dual-feed antennas in Portugal so that homes can have access to the broad range of in-

ternational channels available free-to-air from the HOT BIRD™ neighbourhood.

Commenting on the entry into service of EUROBIRD™ 9, Giuliano Berretta, CEO of Eutelsat Communications said: "The deployment of EUROBIRD™ 9 at 9 degrees East, underpins our objective to optimise our video neighbourhoods in order to meet continued demand for capacity for Standard Digital and HDTV channels. It is our conviction that with the availability of low-cost dual-feed antennas for enriching channel reception from more than one orbital location, Europe is poised to move into an era of multi-satellite reception which is already commonplace in strong satellite markets around the world, notably North America." ●

National Broadcasting Company announces launch of 12 new channels

RUSSIA

Russian broadcaster - National Broadcasting Company has announced the launch of 12 new channels on the W4 satellite of Eutelsat Communications in order to expand development of its Tricolor television platform.

The channels have been launched following signature on 1st February 2007 of a contract for the lease of a second transponder on W4 between Eutelsat and RSCC, acting on behalf of National Broadcasting Company.

Launched in Russia in 2005 as a free package of 15 channels accessed via a decoder developed and commercialised by General Satellite, the Tricolor platform today serves an audience of 800,000 homes. With buoyant receiver sales since the beginning of 2007, Tricolor forecasts audience growth to 1.2 million homes by the end of the year. Tricolor's main target are the estimated 50 million viewers in western parts of Russia (up

to and including the Urals) living in rural areas with limited offer of channels through terrestrial reception. The platform was launched in November 2005 on one transponder on Eutelsat's W4 satellite as a subscription-free digital package of Russian national and regional channels with the only cost being the receiver. Boosted by rapid receiver sales, Tricolor is now moving into the second phase of its development with the launch of 12 new channels available in low-cost thematic packages.

Called Optimum, this new offer is commercialised in six packages branded Optimum, each containing two channels with the same theme:

- The Detskiy package (Childrens), comprising Raketa TV (Rocket TV) and Telenyana (Telenanny)
- The Kino package (Films), comprising Dom Kino (Cinema) and Mnogo TV (Much of TV)

- The Sportivniy package (Sport), comprising the Boez (Fighter) and Avtoplus (Auto Plus)
- The Poznavatelniy package (Lifestyle), comprising 365 365 and Teleputeshestvia (Adventure)
- The Yumor TV package (Entertainment), comprising Veseloe TV (Humour) and Komedia TV (Comedy)

Each of these options is available individually for an annual cost of eight euros or as a combined offer (all five options) for 16 euros per year.

The Nochnoy package (Night-time), comprising the Russkaya noch and Nochnoy club (Night Club)

The Nochnoy package is available for 14 euros per year.

Commenting on the launch of Optimum, Mordachev Viacheslav, CEO of National Broadcasting Company said: "With strong demand from Russian television viewers for new

digital channels we are convinced that the new offer we have assembled will be a popular choice. Our subscription packages also constitute a new platform for Russian and international content providers to reach into television homes in Russia".

Giuliano Berretta, CEO of Eutelsat added: "In less than two years, the Tricolor platform has built an impressive audience by targeting television homes in rural areas who have only the limited choice of channels delivered by terrestrial networks. This success underscores the unique asset of ubiquitous coverage which is afforded by satellites, combined with scalability to efficiently support expansion of TV platforms at national and regional levels. Tricolor's achievements also further consolidate our W4 satellite at 36 degrees East as a key contributor to developing Russia's highly dynamic broadcasting market." ●

Satellite enables mobile wireless broadband services

CANADA

Mobile Satellite Ventures LP and joint venture partner Mobile Satellite Ventures (Canada) announced in May that MSV has contracted with ILS International Launch Services, Inc. for the launch in 2009 of one of two high-powered, next-generation satellites, designed to provide seamless, transparent and ubiquitous broadband wireless coverage of North and Central America to consumer electronic devices.

"This launch will usher in a new era in integrated satellite-terrestrial communications

where consumers throughout North America can enjoy broadband services at lower costs per bit with the flexibility to support a range of custom IP applications," said Alexander H. Good, MSV Vice Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President. "We have teamed with a world-class provider who combined a fair price and programme flexibility, allowing us to deliver ahead of our regulatory milestones."

The ILS agreement is for a single firm launch and includes an option for a second launch.

"Mobile Satellite Ventures is introducing exciting new mobile services in the Americas," said ILS President Frank McKenna. "ILS is proud to have been selected by MSV to initiate its business expansion by providing Proton launch services. MSV is a new and important customer for us, and we hope to build this relationship into a long-term partnership based on our record of outstanding performance and customer focus."

ILS plans to launch the MSV spacecraft on a Proton/Breeze M vehicle from the Baikonur

Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The Proton/Breeze M vehicle is manufactured by ILS' Russian partner, Khronichev State Research and Production Space Center. The Proton vehicle has carried out 325 missions for the Russian government and commercial customers for more than 40 years.

MSV's satellites, under construction by The Boeing Company, will operate in geostationary orbit over North America from 101 degrees and 107.3 degrees west. The satellites feature 22-meter diameter, elliptical mesh reflectors that will support L-band communication with conventional handsets through a network based on MSV's patented ancillary terrestrial component technology. ●

Galileo at the crossroads

EUROPE

The European Commission has adopted a communication on the state of play of the Galileo programme in response to a request from the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament. The Commission notes that the Galileo roadmap needs adapting to meet the deadline of 2012 by when Galileo should be fully operable. The public-private partnership set up to implement Galileo needs to be reprofiled to enable Galileo to be brought into service in 2012.

"Europe needs a satellite radio navigation system as part of its essential infrastructure for crucial applications such as border control, transport logistics, financial operations and the surveillance of critical energy and communications infrastructures. The Commission is doing everything it can to guarantee its success", said Jacques Barrot, Commission Vice-President responsible for transport. "Galileo will make a major contribution to Community policies, and embodies Europe's ambitions in space, technology and innovation", he added.

Satellite radio navigation is a technology which enables users to pinpoint their location anywhere in the world at any moment in time.

The European Galileo satellite radio navigation system consists of a constellation of 30 satellites in orbit at an altitude of 24,000 km offering five different services.

Work on the European satellite radio navigation programmes, Galileo and Egnos, has reached a crossroads, and a political choice now has to be made on how to implement them.

The lack of progress in the negotiations on the concession contract, which provided for the deployment and management of the infrastructure by the private sector, is posing a serious threat to the completion of the project. The Council (Transport Ministers) which met on 22 March 2007 therefore asked the Commission to let it have, before its next meeting in June, a detailed report setting out the progress made in the negotiations with the consortium applying for the concession and alternative scenarios for the rapid deployment of the space infrastructure. The Commission's conclusion is that the present roadmap, which provides for the involvement of the private sector at an early stage, will not enable the project to be completed within the desired timeframe and that this is likely

to lead to considerable extra costs for the private sector. The Commission proposes adapting the roadmap to enable the timetable and costs to be monitored more closely and to give the satellite radio navigation applications and services industries a greater sense of security as to when Galileo signals will actually become available. The Commission shows that the most beneficial, the most realistic and, in the long term, the most economic option will be for all the initial infrastructure to be put in place while being piloted and financed by the public sector. In contrast, the operation of the system will be entrusted to a private concession holder.

The Commission calls on the EU Member States to take the necessary decisions in terms of policy, finance and programme management to enable the project to be completed as soon as possible and to meet the needs of satellite navigation market users.

Satellite radio navigation applications will provide numerous applications for everyday life, from vehicle guidance to the safety of transport, including commercial applications (banking, geology, public works, energy, etc).

Satellite radio navigation is penetrating all layers of society. Galileo is therefore about the ordinary citizen. ●



Ambassador to Saudi Arabia visits Arabsat head office in Riyadh

SAUDI ARABIA

Mr. Ford M. Fraker, US Ambassador to Saudi Arabia has paid a visit to Arabsat Headquarters in the Diplomatic Quarter in Riyadh. Engr. Khaled bin Ahmad Balkhyour, Arabsat CEO, welcomed the visit of H.E. the Ambassador who expressed his delight with this friendly visit and said "this visit comes in line with the exchange of visits to explore the joint horizons of cooperation and services that could be provided by Arabsat in the telecommunications field and its role in the promotion of media exchange at regional and international levels."

Founded in 1976 by the 22 member states of the Arab League, Arabsat has been serving the growing needs of the

Arab world for over 30 years. Now ranked as the world's 10th largest satellite operator and by far the leading satellite services provider in the Arab world, it reaches millions of homes in over 100 countries across the Middle East, Africa and Europe.

Operating a growing fleet of 4 satellites at the 26° East and 30.5° East positions of the geostationary orbit, Arabsat is the only satellite operator in the region offering the full spectrum of Broadcast, Telecommunications and Broadband services.

Arabsat is drafting the final touches of contracts for manufacturing and launching of its 5th generation satellites that represent the state-of-the-art technology in satellites telecommunications. ●



Mr. Ford M. Fraker, U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia has paid a visit to Arabsat Headquarters in the Diplomatic Quarter in Riyadh.

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NSS-8 replacement and fleet development plans unveiled

THE NETHERLANDS

SES NEW SKIES has unveiled plans to further enlarge its satellite fleet through a new spacecraft procurement with Space Systems/Loral a subsidiary of Loral Space & Communications (NASDAQ: LORL). The procurement of the NSS-12 satellite will be made by SES Satellite Leasing Ltd. and the satellite will be commercially operated by SES NEW SKIES. Terms of the procurement contract remain confidential.

"The proven performance of the Space Systems/Loral's 1300 spacecraft bus along with the commitment of the entire organization to deliver a high quality product on time were key in our decision on this procurement," said Robert Bednarek, President and Chief Executive Officer of SES NEW SKIES. "We are very pleased to be working with SS/L, a leader in the space and telecommunications industry, which shares our fundamental commitment to high quality and performance."

The hybrid NSS-12 satellite that Space Systems/Loral will produce is slated for operation at the orbital position of 57° East by mid-2009. NSS-12 will carry 40 x 36 MHz equivalent C-Band and 48 x 36 MHz equivalent Ku-band transponders and will serve as a replacement for the NSS-8 spacecraft which was destroyed on its launch pad in January of this year. NSS-12 is designed to provide SES NEW SKIES with additional capacity to commercialise and high-power coverage to support the expansion requirements of existing customers while also addressing the growing demand for services in Africa, the Middle East and India. NSS-12 will have a minimum expected life-time of 15 years. A specific launch vehicle has not yet been chosen.

"SES NEW SKIES looks forward to our collaboration with Space Systems/Loral on the NSS-12 programme. We are confident that Loral will deliver a quality spacecraft for our use at



SES NEW SKIES awarded Space Systems/Loral a contract to build a high-power telecommunications satellite. A rendering of NSS-12 is pictured here. Photo Credit: Sergio Maraschin, Space Systems/Loral

this important orbital location. We are proud that as promised, in a few short months since the NSS-8 launch failure, we have been able to quickly define, specify and now arrange a replacement, which demonstrates the commitment and strength of SES and SES NEW SKIES," said Bednarek.

"As the leader in providing high-power commercial satellites, Space Systems/Loral is especially well-positioned to provide SES NEW SKIES with a spacecraft that will help it meet the growing demand for fixed satellite services around the world," said John Celli, President and Chief Operating Officer, Space Systems/Loral. "Our com-

panies share the same commitment to performance, reliability and service and we look forward to this and other opportunities to work together to expand the world's ability to communicate."

NSS-12 now joins NSS-9, a C-band only satellite which is already under construction and slated for launch in late 2008, as another important element of the expanding fleet available to SES NEW SKIES.

In addition to these two satellites, SES is actively planning the procurement of a second hybrid C- and Ku-band satellite which will likely be configured to operate from a number of different orbital slots. The company expects that a firm order for this

yet to be named spacecraft will be placed within the next months.

Mr. Bednarek is confident that SES NEW SKIES' fleet development plans demonstrate a long-term commitment to meet customer needs: "Our new satellites, together with our existing constellation of seven in-orbit spacecraft, allow us to continue to support and expand truly global coverage for our customers, regardless of their location or service needs. Coupled with our history of flexibility, cost-effectiveness and customer focus we believe SES NEW SKIES will become the preferred satellite capacity provider to an ever growing family of customers." ●

Boeing pico-satellite mission to advance miniature satellite technology

US

A pico-satellite developed by Boeing to evaluate miniature spacecraft technologies was successfully launched to orbit on April 17 by an ISC Kosmotras Dnepr rocket from the Baikonur.

Initial system checks indicate that the CubeSat TestBed 1 (CSTB1) spacecraft is operational and ready for a series of on-orbit demonstrations that will help Boeing further develop nano-satellites weighing less than 22 pounds.

"Our pico- and nano-satellite activities are part of a broader Boeing effort to enable a more operationally responsive space," said Alex Lopez, Vice President of Boeing Advanced Network and Space Systems.

"Our team is excited that CSTB1 is in orbit, and we're ready to proceed with our demonstrations," said Scott MacGillivray, Manager of Boeing Nano-Satellite Programmes. "These satellites can quickly and inexpensively test miniature, low-power components and subsystems to help reduce the power requirements and weight of larger satellites."

Boeing developed the CSTB1 spacecraft at its new Engineering Development Center in Huntington Beach, Calif., where engineers are exploring new ways to reduce the size, weight and power needs for key satellite components. The new facility includes a Mission Operations Center where on-orbit operations for CSTB1 will be conducted.

"On-orbit tests of CubeSats like CSTB1 can be conducted years earlier than larger satellites and at considerably less cost than Earth-based testing. Nano-satellites also are less costly to develop and deploy than larger satellites and can piggy back on rockets launching larger payloads," added MacGillivray.

Weighing a little more than two pounds, CSTB1 consists of four microcontrollers as the brains, redundant communica-

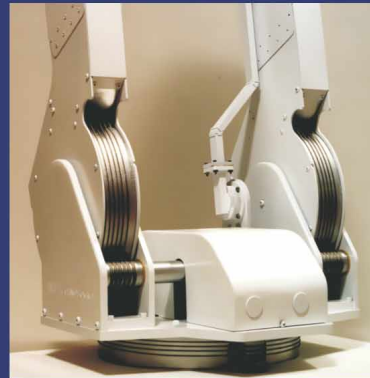
tion systems with two independent radios, two high-capacity lithium-ion rechargeable batteries, a deployable antenna, a so-

phisticated control system that determines the attitude of the spacecraft using sun and magnetic field sensors, a simple atti-

tude control system using magnetic torque coils and multi-functional boards containing sensors and electronics. ●

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Gilat to provide broadband wireless access solutions with Proxim WiMAX

ISRAEL

Gilat Satellite Networks Ltd. (Nasdaq:GILT) has entered into an OEM purchase and global marketing agreement with Proxim Wireless Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Terabeam, Inc (NASDAQ: TRBM). The agreement is part of an implementation by Gilat of its strategy to expand its product portfolio using Gilat's core competencies. Leveraging its strong global sales, turnkey project implementation, satellite backhaul solutions and local support capabilities, Gilat now offers WiMAX, Wi-Fi Mesh and other Broadband Wireless Access solutions, to its existing and potential customers.

Gilat has established a wireless solutions department which will market the wireless products - SkyMP.16^(tm) for WiMAX technology and SkyMP.11^(tm) for license-free frequencies. The new department is headed by Tal Meirzon, who, for over 10 years, has held a variety of senior positions at Gilat, including his most recent position as Vice President of Marketing and Business Development for Gilat Network Systems. Mr. Meirzon will continue to serve as Gilat Network System's Vice President of Business Development in addition to his new position as General Manager, wireless solutions.

Gilat also announced that it has received its first Broadband Wireless Access order, from Asiainfo, an Internet Service Provider in Kyrgyzstan. Gilat will provide Asiainfo with an end to end solution which will include a Broadband Wireless Access and wireless backhaul solution. The solution will enable Asiainfo to deliver broadband wireless services for businesses and consumers throughout Kyrgyzstan's capital, Bishkek. Asiainfo is an existing Gilat customer, that recently deployed a SkyEdge broadband satellite hub within its network.

"The markets which require broadband satellite communications often have a need for

Broadband Wireless Access technology," said Amiram Levinberg, Chairman and CEO of Gilat Satellite Networks Ltd. "Proxim's WiMAX expertise and product offering, coupled with our strong presence in emerging markets, wide range of satellite technologies, network planning and systems integration capabilities, underscores the synergistic value of this cooperation. The new contract with Asiainfo is an excellent example of how we can now cater to our customers' broadband wireless access and satellite communications needs through a single point of contact. We have targeted the broadband wireless

market as one of Gilat's future growth engines and are now well-positioned to provide a one stop shop for broadband wireless solutions, on a nationwide basis including rural and remote areas," he added.

WiMAX is an emerging standard for interoperability of Broadband Wireless Access technologies. As a leader in Broadband Wireless technology, Proxim's products will expand Gilat's offering to include WiMAX and Wi-Fi Mesh as additions to its satellite networking solutions. This will enable Gilat to provide wireless Pico base-station architecture - all outdoor, scalable and cost effective data, voice

and video solutions. Furthermore, in nationwide deployments, satellite backhaul is often used to connect last mile WiMAX to the Internet backbone.

Proxim's CEO, Robert E. Fitzgerald said, "We are excited to be working with Gilat to bring end-to-end satellite/terrestrial wireless networks to market. Gilat's well established global sales together with its turnkey project offering presents an excellent opportunity to reach new customers and markets. We believe that through this relationship we will be able to provide better value to these markets and customers." ●

Astrium triple success as Skynet 5A enters service

UK

Astrium has achieved a triple success on the Skynet 5 military satellite communications programme with the first satellite Skynet 5A entering full service in orbit.

Astrium is prime contractor on the Skynet 5 contract through its Astrium Services subsidiary Paradigm Secure Communications. Paradigm holds the £3.6 billion contract with the UK Ministry of Defence for the provision of secure miltatcoms until 2020.

Astrium Satellites is prime contractor to Paradigm for the design and build of three Skynet 5 military communications satellites and associated ground infrastructure which will provide significant increase in capacity and performance.

Astrium is also prime contractor on the Ariane 5 launchers in charge of manufacturing, and leads the launcher manufacturing activities of the various European industrial companies. Astrium Space Transportation recently signed an agreement with Arianespace to step up production of Ariane 5 launchers.

The Skynet 5 satellites are based on Astrium's Eurostar E3000 satellite platform with a 34m solar array span and a launch mass of 4.7 tonnes. Skynet 5A was launched on 11 March 2007 from Kourou, French Guiana, and is in its orbital position in geostationary orbit at 1 degree West. Following comprehensive in-orbit testing, Skynet 5A was officially accepted by the UK MoD and en-

tered full service.

François Auque, CEO of Astrium said: "Skynet 5 is a shining example of what can be achieved by the combined expertise and capabilities across Astrium. Skynet 5A will provide significantly enhanced communication services to the UK armed forces and Paradigm's other customers as part of this pioneering and impressive private finance initiative." ●

AAE Systems awarded contract in Oman

AAE Systems has won a contract to build a Mesh network for an oil exploration company in the Sultanate of Oman.

The contract stipulates a network that will support voice and data connectivity between several remote sites to the Hub site in Muscat. Sites will be connected through the use of the AAE Eclipse DSM-1. The DSM-1 is a digital satellite modem, the main building block for an efficient and dynamic TDMA DAMA network.

Earlier this year, AAE won several contracts to build networks supporting data connectivity for several oil-based operations in Oman. AAE has extensive experience building customized networks for companies in the oil and petrochemicals market.