

SES ASTRA signs new long-term contract

LUXEMBOURG

SES ASTRA has announced that it has signed a new long-term contract with the French Pay-TV operator CANAL+ Group for the satellite transmission of its programme bouquet for the French market from ASTRA's prime orbital position 19.2° East. Based on this new contract, SES ASTRA will transmit the full programming line up of CANAL+ Group from a single orbital position. CANAL+ Group has recently merged its pay-TV operations in France with that of

TPS. In the agreement, CANAL+ Group takes several ASTRA transponders in addition to those currently contracted from SES ASTRA. The agreement therefore provides the satellite capacity which is necessary to consolidate the complete newly merged CANALSAT bouquet on a single orbital position.

It will allow CANAL+ Group to broadcast and develop its complete High Definition (HD) satellite bouquet and will also provide further room for growth

for Standard Definition (SD) services. Furthermore, the agreement provides and foresees a framework for the long-term growth requirements of CANAL+ Group.

"With this contract, we significantly enhance our position in the French market and further strengthen our relationship with CANAL+ as one of our most important European customers", says Ferdinand Kayser, President and CEO of SES ASTRA. "SES ASTRA and CANAL+ have

developed a strong partnership over the past ten years, and we look forward to continuing to provide satellite services of the highest quality and reliability to the merged bouquet. Broadcasting the new offer from one orbital position is undoubtedly the best solution for CANAL+ and its subscribers and viewers. SES ASTRA once again demonstrates its strengths and shows that it is the satellite provider of choice for important blue chip customers." ●

Alcatel Alenia Space enjoys record orders in 2006

FRANCE

Alcatel Alenia Space enjoyed an exceptional year in 2006, signing contracts for the construction of 57 communications and observation satellites, including three for defense applications. With this new record, Alcatel Alenia Space becomes the world's leading satellite company in terms of orders.

World leader in communications satellite orders

Alcatel Alenia Space signed contracts for eight geostationary (GEO) communications satellites, giving it 30 percent of the market: Turksat 3A for Turksat AS, AMC-21 and Ciel-2 for SES Americom, two Satcom BW satellites for the German Ministry of Defense, W2A and W7 for Eutelsat, and SICRAL-1B for the Italian Ministry of Defense. The company also signed a 661 million euro contract with Globalstar to supply a constellation of 48 second-generation low Earth orbit (LEO) satellites.

In the payload market, Alcatel Alenia Space signed the BADR-6 contract as well as contracts for Express MD-1 and MD-2, to be built by Krunichev for Russian operator RSCC, giving it one-third of the commercial market.

Alcatel Alenia Space confirmed its global expertise in ra-

dar observation during 2006:

- Komsat-5 contract with KARI to supply the synthetic aperture radar (SAR) for the largest spaceborne Earth observation program in South Korea.
- Siral-2 radar altimeter, to be used on the CryoSat-2 mission to monitor the thickness of land and sea ice.
- Contract for the fourth radar satellite in the COSMO-SkyMed constellation, designed for dual use by the Italian Ministry of Defense and space agency.

For science applications, Alcatel Alenia Space was chosen by the European Space Agency to carry out a preliminary ExoMars study. This mission is designed to send a probe to Mars to discover possible traces of life – past or present. The total budget for this mission is estimated at more than 600 million euros.

Four communications satellites

- Hot BirdTM 7A, Thaicom 5 and Syracuse 3B on Ariane 5s launched from Kourou, French Guiana.

- Koreasat 5 on a Zenit-3SL from the Odyssey Launch Platform.

Five communications payloads

- Arabsat 4A & 4B (BADR-4) and Kazsat on Proton, MTSAT 2 on H2A and XM4 on Zenit-3SL.

- 1 observation satellite: Calipso (Delta 2).
- 1 scientific satellite: Corot (Soyuz).
- 1 optical payload: IASI on Metop (Soyuz).
- 1 radar payload: SAR-Lupe (Kosmos 3M).
- 1 module for the International Space Station: Leonardo MPLM. ●

Telekom Serbia selects Gilat's SkyEdge

Gilat Satellite Networks announced that Telekom Serbia, the incumbent telecom carrier in Serbia, will deploy Gilat's SkyEdge broadband satellite hub and several hundred VSATs to serve its residential and corporate customers. To meet its Universal Service Obligation (USO) requirements, Telekom Serbia will deploy SkyEdge VSATs at remote community centres throughout Serbia to provide citizens with reliable telephony, fax and broadband Internet access. Telekom Serbia will also use the VSATs to serve its customers in the television rebroadcasting and enterprise networking sectors.

Shimon Teller, Gilat's director of global accounts, said, "Together with Telekom Serbia, we expect to capitalize on many diverse business opportunities throughout the region. With the new services provided by SkyEdge, we are able to help improve the quality of life for citizens in Serbia's rural areas."

SkyEdge is a satellite communications platform that delivers high quality voice, broadband data and video services over a powerful unified system. The platform represents Gilat's deep knowledge base and field-proven product offering, acquired through nearly two decades of experience. SkyEdge's flexible architecture and efficient space segment utilization make it an ideal platform for operators and service providers.

CapRock expands UK facilities in response to significant growth in the region

UK

CapRock Communications, a leading global provider of satellite communications, recently completed the upgrade of its existing Network Operations Center (NOC) in Aberdeen, Scotland.

This expansion will enable the company to further support its mission to provide uncompromising service and support to its growing customer base in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The highly advanced NOC, rep-

resenting just one part of the newly constructed 1,500 sq. meter facility, will provide enhanced remote monitoring capabilities for its existing customers and will also provide the additional tools and support needed to meet its growing maritime presence.

CapRock's state-of-the-art NOCs located in Houston, Texas, and Aberdeen enable company specialists to monitor, manage and provision custom-

ers' networks around the globe 24 hours a day, seven days a week. These centers are interconnected with high-speed fibre optic links, providing each with the ability to remotely monitor and operate the other centre as well as the networks and remote sites it monitors.

The newly constructed Aberdeen NOC features the latest in network management technology and enables CapRock to provide advanced site monitor-

ing and support.

"As CapRock continues to experience significant growth, we remain committed to the reputation that we have earned over the past 25 years of being the industry leader in uncompromising service," said CapRock's Managing Director, Ian Ford. "With the new facility, customer service will be further enhanced as a result of the improved network visibility provided through the NOC." ●

ARINC, world leader in aviation comms, first to introduce European service for business jets

FRANCE

Skylogic, Eutelsat's broadband affiliate, has teamed with ViaSat, producer of innovative satellite and wireless communications products, to provide in-flight communications to business jets flying over Europe. The new service has already been selected by ARINC, a world leader in aviation communications, which announces that passengers on over 40 business jets flying over European airspace are now benefiting from satellite-based in-flight communications. ARINC provides users with European coverage through Ku-band capacity on Eutelsat's ATLANTIC BIRD™ 2.

The service supplied by ViaSat and Skylogic, called D-Star aero, provides business aviation passengers with office-in-the-sky communications, including access to e-mail, the Internet, voice over IP (VOIP), fax over IP (FOIP) and corporate intranets. On-board access to users through laptops is provided via a Wi-Fi hot spot installed inside the aircraft. Full service can work during taxi, take-off, flight and landing.

Through the European and Mediterranean Basin coverage

supplied by Eutelsat's ATLANTIC BIRD™ 2 satellite and ground station services in Italy supplied through Skylogic, the new service supports aircraft-to-ground data rates of 128 to 256 kbps and ground-to-aircraft data rates varying up to 3.5 Mbps.

The full avionics system weighs less than 20 kilos, including a 30cm circular antenna which is tail-mounted and fits on larger business aircraft including Gulfstream GIV, GIV-SP, G400, GV, G500, G550, Cessna Citation X, Dassault Falcon 900, and Bombardier Global Express and Challengers.

ARINC supplies the service under its SkyLink brand to business jet manufacturers and is also working to make this high-speed broadband service a standard option on new business aircraft. The company was selected in October last year by Dassault Falcon Jet to fit the product on the new Falcon 7X ultra-long-range corporate aircraft.

Due for certification in 2007, Dassault Falcon has already received more than 90 orders for the Falcon 7X between 2007 and 2010.

Arduino Patacchini, CEO of Skylogic said: "We are very excited about the cost-efficiency of this highly targeted broadband access solution for business aviation passengers and believe this new product for the aviation market truly corresponds to a demand

from high-end business users to have seamless communications in all environments. The development of this service underscores our objective to expand and diversify our range of D-STAR satellite broadband products into transport markets." ●

ONDAS MEDIA SIGNS CONTENT AGREEMENT WITH TALPA RADIO B.V.

ONDAS Media (ONDAS), the premier satellite media company for Europe, which specialises in providing comprehensive digital services for consumers on the move, has recently announced a partnership agreement with leading Dutch broadcaster Talpa Radio B.V. Talpa Radio B.V. is part of Talpa Media Holding – a privately owned group headed by John de Mol, founder of Endemol, the worldwide operating media conglomerate. In addition to a TV channel, content development and production facilities and a music publisher, Talpa also owns a number of high profile radio channels and internet portals in leadership positions.

The agreement will see the companies collaborating to jointly produce and sell high quality media and radio content to European consumers through the ONDAS brand, but not limited to its full subscription-based, advertising-free satellite radio, media and data service, due for launch in 2009. This announcement follows recent news that ONDAS has also partnered with the largest consortium of private national media and broadcasters in Italy; Club DAB Italia as part of an additional content agreement. **See article on page 34.**

DIRECTV and Intel provide connectivity

US

DIRECTV, Inc., the US' leading satellite television service provider, announces that the DIRECTV Plus® HD DVR has been verified with Intel® Viiv™ technology. With this certification, DIRECTV becomes largest supplier of Viiv-verified digital media adapters (DMAs).

DIRECTV customers who have a DIRECTV Plus® HD DVR can now access and enjoy their pictures and music on their TVs directly from Intel Viiv technology-based PCs.

The DIRECTV Plus® HD DVR is the world's first digital set-top box with integrated DMA functionality verified to work with Intel Viiv technology.

"We announced our alliance with Intel at the 2006 Consumer Electronics Show and we are happy to be here today, one year later, to show you the fruits of our labor," said Romulo Pontual, Ex-

ecutive Vice President and CTO, DIRECTV, Inc. "The way people consume media is rapidly evolving and connectivity between digital devices is becoming an essential part of the home ecosystem. DIRECTV understands this evolution and is delivering innovative solutions to make sure our customers stay connected."

"Today's announcement marries the millions of Intel Viiv technology-based PC owners with DIRECTV's high-definition TV viewers in a way that has never been done before," said Kevin Corbett, Vice President, Intel's Digital Home Group and General Manager of its Content Services Group.

"DIRECTV's product exemplifies what a digital or connected home is all about where PCs, TVs and CE devices all work in concert together and

"The way people consume media is rapidly evolving and connectivity between digital devices is becoming an essential part of the home ecosystem."

consumers enjoy their entertainment on a variety of screens and devices when and where they want to," he continued

Photos and music are just the beginning. The Viiv functionality is already available as a public beta trial to all DIRECTV Plus HD DVR customers. Later this year, DIRECTV plans to enhance the photo and music experience, as well as provide the ability to stream video from Intel Viiv technology-based PCs via DIRECTV Plus HD DVRs.

Delivering the ability to

record and view 200 hours of standard definition content or 50 hours of MPEG 4 high-definition programming, the DIRECTV Plus® HD DVR receiver verified with Intel Viiv technology enables consumers to access and enjoy new experiences that combine the best of the TV with the best of the PC.

DIRECTV has established a dedicated location on the DIRECTV Web site to help customers understand the new connectivity options available to them.

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Eutelsat selects Alcatel Alenia Space for W7 satellite

FRANCE

Eutelsat Communications and Alcatel Alenia Space announced that the two companies have signed a contract under which Alcatel Alenia Space will manufacture and deliver Eutelsat's W7 communications satellite.

To be launched in second quarter 2009 to Eutelsat's 36 degrees East location, W7 will double the capacity currently available at a key neighbourhood in the Group's fleet of geostationary satellites. Through a configuration of high-performance fixed and steerable beams, W7 will also boost coverage and flexibility for addressing growing markets, notably in central Asia and Africa.

W7's mission comprises up to 70 Ku-band transponders that can be connected to six beams serving Europe, Russia, Africa, the Middle East and central Asia. To be copositioned with Eutelsat's W4 satellite, which already serves anchor pay-TV operators in Russia, the Ukraine and sub-Saharan Africa, W7 will enable Eutelsat to almost double bandwidth for digital video services in these regions. It will also replace all capacity on Eutelsat's SESAT 1 satellite which serves Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and central Asia, and bring fresh capacity to South Africa through a high-power fixed beam, and also to central Asia through a spotbeam which can be oriented in orbit. Following W7's deployment at 36 degrees East, SESAT 1 will continue in commercial service at an alternative location. Weighing in at 5.6 tonnes and with 12 kW of payload power, W7 is based on the Alcatel Alenia Space Spacebus 4000 platform and will be boosted into orbit by Sea Launch.

Commenting on the satellite's procurement, Eutelsat CEO Giuliano Berretta said: "Since 2000, we have proactively built our video neighbourhood at 36 degrees East into a prime location for digital markets in eastern Europe and Africa. This commitment has won the confidence

of pay-TV operators who are pioneers in their markets, notably NTV Plus from Russia, Poverkhnost from the Ukraine and MultiChoice Africa which reaches large parts of sub-Saharan Africa through this neighbourhood. In order to support growth for broadcast and telecommunications services in these regions and to boost capacity for other markets, we looked closely at how we could even more efficiently exploit the resource at 36 degrees East.

With W7, this key position in our fleet will benefit from capacity enabling us to use the full spectrum of Ku-band frequencies, and to respond to market demands in multiple regions through a high degree of operational flexibility."

"We are very pleased and fully committed to supporting Eutelsat's sustainable growth," said Pascale Sourisse, CEO of Alcatel Alenia Space. "We are also very proud of working alongside Eutelsat to meet the

increasing market demand and emerging new applications by delivering technologies with outstanding performance. W7 is the second satellite after W2A to be awarded by Eutelsat to our company in 2006.

"This contract further consolidates an historical year for our company: we have been chosen by a large number of operators, making us the world leader in the communications satellite market," continued Sourisse. ●

CASBAA Convention 2007: It's all about content

HONG KONG

'It's all about Content!' – That's the theme for the CASBAA Convention 2007 to be staged October 30th to November 2nd at Hong Kong's Academy for Performing Arts.

Focusing on the most vital market driver for pay-TV services, video content, the Convention 2007 will highlight how "the relationship between content, carriage, customers and revenue is indivisible," said Marcel Fenez, the Chairman of CASBAA. "There is now a deeper industry-wide recognition that whether the platform is cable, satellite, broadband, mobile or any other delivery mode consumers ultimately pay for the images on screen."

According to CASBAA, with the need to maximise viewership and revenues in a world of proliferating channels, the delineation of quality niche products is gaining ever greater relevance. Meanwhile, a more sophisticated understanding of consumer behaviour and the development of related marketing campaigns all flow back to the core product: compelling content.

The ever-changing technology landscape will also feature strongly during the CASBAA

Convention 2007, as will the mega-markets of China and India and the still green-field markets of Indonesia and Vietnam.

The annual CASBAA Convention brings together broadcast executives and technology specialists from Asia and around the world to exchange views and information during high-powered interactive debates.

"This is where Asia's pay-TV decision-makers meet market dynamics head on," said Simon

Twiston Davies, CEO of CASBAA. "First comes carriage, but then you need Content!"

The 2006 event attracted global executives to Hong Kong to hear the likes of Michael Fries, President and CEO of Liberty Global; Remi Hinduja, Chairman of Hinduja TM; Louise Sams, President of Turner Broadcasting System International; Irwin Gottlieb, Global CEO of Group M and Carlyle Group MD, John Kwun. ●

BOEING GPS GROUND STATION TEST VALIDATES ABILITY TO COMMAND GPS FLEET

Boeing has successfully completed a live demonstration of the Global Positioning System (GPS) ground station, which, when fully operational, will control the 32 GPS satellites now in orbit as well as those that will join the fleet in the coming months.

Boeing is under contract to migrate the current GPS ground control system to a distributed Unix-based system beginning in April 2007.

The system currently being tested is known as the Architecture Evolution Plan (AEP).

"This live navigation mission met or exceeded all GPS performance requirements," said GPS Program Director John Duddy. "The system worked flawlessly as designed, and I want to congratulate the team for the outstanding results in what the Air Force considers the largest and most complex upgrade in the 30-year history of the GPS program."

NDS to provide end-to-end content protection system for KT mobile content service

KOREA

NDS, the leading provider of technology solutions for digital pay-TV, has announced that it has been selected by KT, the leading telecommunications company in Korea, to deploy a full end-to-end system including NDS VideoGuard Mobile and NDS VideoGuard PMP on the company's new 'toest' mobile content platform.

The NDS content protection solution will enable the secure download of a wide variety of video content over WiFi hotspots, providing both content owners and consumers with a

new, secure way to download video to their mobile CE devices.

"toest" is a new service from KT that has been designed to establish a standardized business model for content distribution, through which revenues will go to copyrighted content owners. Video clips, protected by digital rights management, will be offered via a single authorized terminal per user. Users log on to www.toest.co.kr and download video clips to their PCs, and subsequently transfer them to mobile devices via wireless hotspots. The service offers

nearly 3,000 video clips, including movies, TV dramas, animations and educational content.

Dr. Jung Han-Wook, Assistant Vice President of KT, commented "We chose the NDS VideoGuard DRM solution as it is important for us to launch the "toest" service with a lawful distribution structure of videos and movies. NDS VideoGuard enables us to protect the content copyrights as well as support a variety of content purchase business models. KT plans to expand the "toest" content service

with various content licensing agreements as well as expand the service to HSDPA terminals."

Commenting on the news, Ms. Sue Taylor, Vice President and General Manager of NDS Asia-Pacific, said "We are very excited to be chosen by KT to secure and enable their new mobile content service. We look forward to working with KT to advance the platform and enable new types of content and business models, including TV streaming on a variety of devices such as mobile phones, PDA's, PMP's and PC's."

Boeing to begin second phase study

US

Boeing and the US Air Force MILSATCOM Systems Wing have exercised an \$8.4 million contract option to activate Phase II of the Enhanced Polar System (EPS) payload study. Phase I began in July 2006 with a \$1.5 million award to Boeing to define the next-generation communications payload for a polar-orbiting satellite.

Phase II focuses on further payload system definition efforts and lays the foundation for future EPS system definition and production efforts. The work is expected to conclude in December 2007.

"Under the initial six-month contract, Boeing defined the payload architecture and specifications and delivered the payload system requirements review package to the US Air Force," said Charles Touns, Vice President of Navigation and Communications Systems for Boeing Space & Intelligence Systems. "Our work on the military's Interim Polar Satellite programme, the heritage system to EPS, along with our expertise in digital signal processors and mobile

satellite communications means Boeing is well equipped to execute the next phase of development."

The proposed EPS would provide protected satellite communications for warfighters operating in northern polar regions and fill expected communications gaps in areas not covered by the military's Advanced Extremely High Frequency and Transformational Satellite Communications systems now in development.

This contract is the first step in defining a robust and secure satellite payload needed for Extremely High Frequency communications for Air Force and Navy warfighters in remote regions of the world.

The US Air Force MILSATCOM Systems Wing at the Space and Missile Systems Center at Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif., will oversee the Enhanced Polar System program. The results contained in this submission were generated in whole, or in part, through work supporting the MILSATCOM Systems

IN BRIEF

Globecomm Systems announced that the Company has received a second round of funding on a previously announced \$7 million infrastructure contract for a foreign government.

On September 26th, 2006, Globecomm announced the signing two contracts with a customer to design and build the communication infrastructure for a foreign government's department of defense. The Company received an initial payment at that time in the amount of \$1.8 million, and has now received a second round of funding in the amount of \$2.0 million. The first contract, which has been modified since being announced, is currently valued at \$6.2 million. The previously announced second contract, which is unfunded at this time, is currently valued at \$22.4 million and is the initial follow on phase of a long-term four-phase programme directly related to the first contract.

Comtech Telecommunications announced that its Melville, New York-based subsidiary, Comtech PST Corp., received a \$4.8 million contract from a major domestic OEM to supply high power amplifiers. These amplifiers are key components in a complex Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) system used to interrogate aircraft to determine their friend or foe status. This order supplements a significant installed base of Comtech IFF high power amplifiers previously delivered to this customer.

Fred Kornberg, President and Chief Executive Officer of Comtech Telecommunications Corp., said "This order reaffirms Comtech's product performance, quality and reliability, as well as the continuation of our relationship with this premier supplier of defense systems to the US Government."

Amid continued speculation about the possibility of a satellite-radio merger, Sirius Satellite Radio finished 2006 with 82 percent more subscribers than in the previous year. Sirius said that it ended the year with about 6.02 million subscribers.

Verso and ViaSat selected by Telikom Papua New Guinea (PNG)

US

Verso Technologies, Inc., a global provider of next generation network solutions, announced that its GSM A.bis optimization technology was selected by Telikom Papua New Guinea (PNG), New Guinea's main telecom provider, to reduce network congestion, double current capacity, and substantially increase the carrier's mobile subscriber base.

The upgrade is part of the carrier's plan to spend \$345 million (USD) in five years to improve its telecom network and subscriber services.

The Telikom PNG subscriber base is experiencing rapid growth, and Verso's GSM solution allowed Telikom PNG to increase its mobile network customer base from 50,000 to

120,000 with a total network of 35 base stations in 22 locations nationwide. Specifically, the solution reduced congestion on the carrier's mobile network and doubled capacity so that 16 new mobile base stations nationwide, plus five super stations, could be added to the existing network. Additional plans include adding 50 base stations that will be rolled out by March 2007, which will increase mobile network coverage and quadruple network capacity. Verso's NetPerformer® GSM technology is an A.bis, A.ter, A, and E bandwidth optimization solution for a variety of converged network settings to grow a carrier's network. The solution addresses the needs of the growing GSM cellular backhaul market, and minimizes

network infrastructure costs between cell towers, base station controllers, and mobile switching centers. The solution optimizes bandwidth utilization on all types of GSM network interfaces including A.bis, A.ter, A, and E, requiring fewer lines or satellite/microwave links.

The system also includes a satellite backhaul link from ViaSat that cuts the cost of GSM backhaul through more efficient use of satellite bandwidth. The Verso/ViaSat system packetizes data and instead of using fixed satellite links, dynamically assigns bandwidth based on voice, signaling, and data traffic volumes.

The outlook for GSM backhaul, particularly in EMEA and Asia-Pacific, is impressive.

GSM added 362 million subscriptions between January and June of 2006, with an average daily growth of 1.32 million, and by Q3 2006, two billion of the world's 2.41 billion cellular subscribers used GSM, according to Informa Telecoms & Media. This indicates strong global demand for backhaul solutions to meet the specific needs of the various wireless providers currently seeking backhaul solutions.

"Our GSM A.bis solution is a key component of PNG's rapidly expanding infrastructure. We will continue working with the carrier on its five-year development programme to provide bandwidth optimization and reduce OpEx," said Tim Peyla, Vice President of Sales, Verso Technologies. ●

Space Systems/Loral to build satellite for Telesat Canada

CANADA

Space Systems/Loral (SS/L) has been awarded a contract to manufacture Nimiq 5, a new high-power, direct broadcast satellite for Telesat Canada.

Nimiq 5 will be the first satellite in Telesat's fleet to be manufactured by Space Systems/Loral. Based on SS/L's heritage 1300 platform, the satellite will be equipped with 32 active high-power Ku-band transponders, providing a strong footprint across Canada. As previously announced by Telesat, Nimiq 5's entire payload is under contract to Bell ExpressVu, Canada's leading direct-to-home service provider, to be used for a wide range of digital television services.

Planned for completion in 2009, Nimiq 5 will have a lifespan of more than 15 years, operating in its geostationary orbit location of 72.7 degrees west.

"As two pioneers in satellite communications and systems

management, Telesat and SS/L share a commitment to excellence and to the highest standards in the industry," said Daniel S. Goldberg, President and Chief Executive Officer of Telesat Canada.

"We look forward to working with SS/L to expand our satellite fleet and assure a generation of Canadians reliable access to advanced video programming," he continued.

"Space Systems/Loral leads the industry in the manufacture of high-power, direct-to-user satellites," said John Celli, President of Space Systems/Loral. "The company is particularly well positioned to help DTH satellite operators such as Telesat meet the growing demand for advanced video services. With Nimiq 5, SS/L continues its legacy of providing advanced and essential technology for the delivery of entertainment and communications services

around the world. We are proud to be working with Telesat and

look forward to a successful relationship." ●

SAT TV UPLINK SECTOR CRUCIAL FOR MEDIA INDUSTRY

The worldwide Satellite TV uplink industry is emerging as an important growth driver for a wide and expanding range of digital video production equipment and video management products, according to research specialist In-Stat, in a new report - *Satellite Uplink Facilities for Professional TV Services*. This market will experience solid, sustained incremental revenue growth, and have a value of US\$306 million during 2010, the firm says.

"The Satellite TV uplink industry is mature, but facing changes and growth opportunities," noted Gerry Kaufhold, In-Stat analyst. "Each geographic region is developing along a unique path based on the changing demands of their local markets. However, all markets are being impacted by the need to support High Definition TV (HDTV) programming services."

According to In-Stat, satellite TV uplinks will upgrade their video equipment at a regular pace for many years to come; new technologies may slow down the need to launch new satellites, but HDTV will eventually force the issue. In-Stat also suggests that there will be strong opportunities for the larger companies that manufacture professional video equipment

ORBCOMM reseller SkyMate receives NOAA type approval for its vessel monitoring system

US

ORBCOMM has announced that its Value-Added Reseller ("VAR"), SkyMate Inc., a marine satellite communications systems provider, has received full type approval from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for its enhanced Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).

The ruling is the latest of several US Government approvals of SkyMate's unique PC software-based messaging terminal, which complements its VMS tracking system hardware, which was approved in 2003.

Increasing numbers of com-

mercial fishermen are required to install and operate tracking systems on their vessels to meet government regulations, including reef fishermen in the Southeast, who are facing a March 7 compliance deadline. SkyMate's recent type approval gives these fishermen a new, lower-cost option with additional features that help them to manage their fishing business.

Using SkyMate's low-cost email, forms, and weather services, fishermen can now stay in touch with shore, fish more safely and coordinate with buyers and suppliers to increase

revenue and reduce costs.

"ORBCOMM's ability to provide communications that meet the rigorous requirements for VMS set forth by NOAA illustrates how our satellite network can be used to support government initiatives and users in the marine market with cost effective solutions," said Greg Flessate, Vice President, Sales and Government Services for ORBCOMM. "We are proud to continue to provide services to NOAA through value added resellers such as SkyMate."

"NOAA's approval is good news for Southeast reef fisher-

men looking for a complete, compact, reliable and low-cost tracking system," said SkyMate President John Tandler. "SkyMate is committed to the commercial fishing industry, and it is gratifying that NOAA has reaffirmed its confidence in SkyMate's ability to offer reliable products and services to this market."

Through SkyMate and other VARs, ORBCOMM is now approved to provide data communications for fisheries applications in several territories of the US, Canada and other countries around the globe. ●

Intelsat satellites restore operators following Asian earthquake fibre cuts

TAIWAN

When the Taiwan earthquake severed six major undersea fibre optic cables, disrupting telecommunications throughout the Asia-Pacific region, Intelsat was able to restore services for many voice, video and data providers, some within hours of the event.

Intelsat restored traffic to customers in Asia and the Middle East through its flexible satellite network and its GlobalConnex Managed Network Services infrastructure. Traffic delivery to the area has primarily used Intelsat's teleports and its six satellites serving the Asia-Pacific region. Specifically, Intelsat reestablished international and intra-regional links for more than 20 telecommunications operators, broadcasters and network service providers.

"Continuing to serve the Asia market with our Hallmark Channel programming would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of Intelsat following the earthquake that hit Southeast Asia," said Chuck

Zabitski, Vice President of Sparrowhawk Broadcast Services. "Intelsat went the extra mile and provided critical assistance in communicating with our uplink provider and getting the equipment properly configured, enabling us to resume our transmissions. We thank everyone at Intelsat for making this a priority and getting our restoration in place."

"Unfortunate events such as this earthquake spotlight the vital role that satellites play in providing backup to fibre-based networks," said Stephen Spengler, Intelsat's Senior Vice President, Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia-Pacific Sales. "When satellite connections are an integrated part of a diverse telecommunications network, critical business continuity can be achieved for uninterrupted communications during emergency situations."

From the first reports of fibre communications disruptions, Intelsat was working around the

clock to provide additional satellite capacity to customers throughout Southeast Asia. "Today, voice, video and Internet connectivity has been restored for customers throughout the region. In one instance, we were able to establish a new 56 Mbps of Internet service for a Southeast Asian telecommunications provider within four hours after the fibre outage," Spengler

added.

Intelsat has played a key role in providing capacity and critical network restoration services following many of the recent natural disasters including the 2004 tsunami, the 2005 Central Asian earthquake which severed the SEA-ME-WE3 fiber communications in Pakistan, and the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita that devastated the US Gulf Coast. ●

TRANSPONDER LEASE AGREEMENT FOR MEASAT-3 CAPACITY

MEASAT Satellite Systems has announced the signing of an interim Transponder Lease Agreement ("TLA") with MEASAT Broadcast Network Systems Sdn Bhd ("Astro") for initial Ku-Band transponder capacity on the recently launched MEASAT-3 satellite. Under the agreement, Astro will lease an initial 5 Ku-band transponders in the Malaysian Ku-Band beam from the commencement of commercial operations of the MEASAT-3 satellite. The interim agreement was signed pending finalization and Astro's shareholder approval of the long term TLA for MEASAT-3 satellite capacity which lays out Astro's broader requirements for capacity over the 15 year satellite life.