



- A monthly round-up of space industry developments for the information of our clients and friends -

### May Satellite & . . .

On May 3, **Space Systems/Loral** (SS/L) announced its selection by **Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited** to supply the **AsiaSat 5** satellite. Based on the **FS-1300** platform, the spacecraft will be equipped with 26 C- and 14 Ku-band transponders and provide coverage of the Asia Pacific from the 100.5° E.L. orbital position, replacing the existing AsiaSat 2 satellite. AsiaSat 5 is scheduled for launch in the second half of 2008 by a **Zenit-3SLB Land Launch** rocket from the **Baikonur Cosmodrome** in Kazakhstan. On May 9, **Eutelsat Communications** announced the selection of **EADS Astrium** to deliver the **HOT BIRD™ 9** DBS satellite. The spacecraft, based on the **Eurostar E3000** platform, will operate up to 64 Ku-band transponders with a payload power of 11 kW and provide coverage of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East from the 13°E.L. orbital position following its scheduled 2008 launch. On May 12, the **Vietnam Posts and Telecommunications Group** announced the award of a delivery-in-orbit contract to **Lockheed Martin Commercial Space Systems** for the **VINASAT-1** satellite. The spacecraft, based on the **A2100A** platform, will include a hybrid C-/Ku-band payload and is designed for a minimum service life of 15 years. Vietnam's first satellite will be operated at the 132°E.L. orbital position and provide broadcast and broadband services throughout Southeast Asia. On May 15, **Avanti Screenmedia Group plc** announced the execution of contracts earlier in the year with the **European Space Agency** and **EADS Astrium** for the financing and procurement of its first satellite, named **HYLAS**. The spacecraft will be based on the **Indian Space Research Organization 1-2K** platform and will provide an equivalent of 40 x 33MHz Ka-/Ku-band transponder capacity over Europe from the 33.5°W.L. orbital position using new flexible payload and next generation antenna technologies to provide broadband and HDTV services.

**SES Astra Acquires 100% of ND Satcom**  
**SES Astra** on May 24 announced that it increased its 25.1% percent shareholding in **ND SatCom** to 100% by acquiring the stake held by German-based **August Technologie** for €35.6 million. ND Satcom, a provider of satellite-based broadband network solutions for government and enterprise customers, conducts business in more than 130 countries and generated 2005 revenues of €80 million, with approximately 70% derived from the government sector. The acquisition significantly enhances SES's position in the growing government services market.

### Launch Services Procurements Galore!

The **Sea Launch Company** announced on May 1 a contract with **Intelsat** to deploy the **Intelsat Americas-9** (IA-9) spacecraft in 4Q 2007. Currently being constructed by **SS/L** on its **FS-1300** platform, IA-9's payload carries a total of 44 operating transponders, selectable among 62 discrete frequencies providing a total of 1,944 MHz of downlink capacity. The spacecraft will provide coverage of North and Central America and the Caribbean from the 97°W.L. orbital position. A few days later on May 8, **Sea Launch** and **EchoStar Communications Corporation** announced a contract for the launch of the **EchoStar XI** DBS satellite. Also under construction by **SS/L**, the Ku-band spacecraft is scheduled for launch in 2007. **Eutelsat Communications** on May 18 announced a contract with **Arianespace** for the launch of its **W2M** spacecraft in 2Q 2008. W2M, being constructed by **EADS Astrium** (payload) and the **Indian Space Research Organization** (bus), is capable of operating a baseline of 26 and up to 32 Ku-band transponders and will provide broadcast and broadband services to Europe, North Africa and the Middle East from the 10°E.L. orbital position. On May 29, **SES Global** announced a contract with the **Sea Launch Company** to launch the AMC-21 spacecraft on its **Zenit-3SLB Land Launch** system in mid-2008. AMC-21, being constructed by **Alcatel Alenia Space** (payload) and **Orbital Sciences Corporation** (bus), will be equipped with 24 Ku-band transponders, operate from the 125°W.L. orbital location and provide coverage of the United States and the Caribbean.

### Satmex 6 & Thaicom 5 Launched

In a record-setting performance involving the launch of two satellites weighing more than 8,200 kg, **Arianespace** on May 27 successfully deployed the **Satmex 6** and **Thaicom 5** spacecraft on an **Ariane 5 ECA** launcher from the European spaceport in **Kourou, French Guiana**. Satmex-6, based on the **SS/L FS-1300X** platform, is equipped with 36 C- and 24 Ku-band transponders and will bolster Satmex's broadcast, Internet and private network service offerings throughout North America from the 113°W.L. orbital position. **Shin Satellite Public Company Limited's Thaicom 5** satellite, based on **Alcatel's Spacebus** platform, includes 24 C- and 14 Ku-band transponders with a total payload power of 5 kW. The spacecraft will be deployed at the 78.5 °E.L. orbital position and enable Shin Satellite to replace the Thaicom 1 and 2 satellites, expected to reach end-of-life in 2008 and 2009 respectively.

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