

Brussels, March 4th, 2002

LEADING SATELLITE OPERATORS CREATE EUROPEAN SATELLITE OPERATORS ASSOCIATION

The key executives of nine European satellite operators met in Brussels on 1 March to sign the Articles of Association that form the European Satellite Operators Association. ESOA, a non-profit organisation to be based in Brussels, will represent the interests of European satellite operators before key European organisations including the European Commission, Parliament, Council and the European Space Agency as well as any other relevant international organisations.

Founding members of ESOA are: Europe*Star, Eutelsat S.A., Hispasat, Inmarsat Ventures PLC, New Skies Satellites NV, Nordic Satellite AB, SES GLOBAL, Telenor Broadband Services AS and Telespazio.

The General Meeting appointed the Board of Directors, comprising the Chief Executive Officers or Chairmen of the Board of each of the operators. The Board is led by Romain Bausch, President and CEO of SES GLOBAL, who has been elected Chairman of the Board of ESOA and Jacinto Garcia Palacios, CEO of HISPASAT and Salvatore Pinto, CEO of Telespazio, as Vice Chairmen of the Board, each of whom have been appointed for a one year term.

An Executive Committee to support the Board will meet regularly comprised of representatives of each satellite operator, and is led by Barry Saunders, Eutelsat S.A., Chairman, Andrew D'Uva, New Skies Satellites N.V., Vice Chairman and Christine Leurquin, SES GLOBAL, Treasurer.

ESOA will pursue five priorities in 2002:

- Provide input into the development of a European space policy at the levels of both the European Commission and European Space Agency.
- Represent the views of European satellite operators in Europe and around the world to help remove trade, regulatory and market access barriers facing them.
- Actively support satellite service providers by stimulating the increase of research and development funding for ground equipment (satellite applications and low-cost interactive terminals).
- Promote the role of satellites in the European Commission's e-Europe broadband programme. e-Europe was launched in 1999 to bring Europe on-line and satellites, with their total coverage of Europe and multi-casting capabilities, are an excellent method of delivering rich content.
- Appoint the Association Secretary General

Key personalities in the satellite communications area welcomed the creation of the European Satellite Operators Association.

Erkki Liikanen, European Commissioner for Enterprise and Information Society said:

“The creation of the ESOA shows the willingness of the satellite communications sector in Europe to contribute to the definition of a balanced and dynamic information society policy. By providing communications services all over Europe, satellites contribute significantly to the objectives of the e-Europe action plan. Therefore the European Union cannot afford to neglect the role of satellite communications. I look forward to the association’s contribution in this area.”

Philippe Busquin, European Commissioner for Research said:

“ESOA can play a crucial role in carrying forward our European Strategy for Space and our efforts to build a coherent research and development approach to space-based applications. Being an integral part of the space industry, satellite operators contribute to making the economic chain happen from launchers to services. The creation of ESOA is a concrete step in fostering European coherence, in a field that is of strategic interest to Europe and that can bring concrete benefits to citizens, for example by allowing access to emergency data and services, by facilitating the global reach of communications or by better monitoring our environment.”

Claudio Mastracci, Director of Applications, European Space Agency said:

“I warmly welcome the creation of the ESOA which shows how dynamic this sector of the space industry is at a time when ESA and the EU are establishing a coherent European Strategy for Space.

ESA will establish a fruitful dialogue with ESOA in order that we can efficiently orient its activities for developing space telecommunications within Europe and this planning will be based on a closer cooperation through ESA between service providers, operators and manufacturers. ESA has more than ever the need to understand where research support should be applied in order to ensure that satellite-delivered services develop effectively in Europe.

The Long Term Plan for Telecommunications (ARTES programmes) was recently supported by ESA Member States at the Ministerial Conference at Edinburgh; this Long Term Plan is a stable basis for continued commercial success in a rapidly evolving environment. ESOA will certainly be a crucial entity in this process.”

Hubert Diez, Responsible for Telecom Applications, CNES:

“We highly appreciate ESOA’s creation. Through its goals and endeavours, ESOA’s work will positively contribute to supporting the deployment of broadband satellite services which will reduce the digital divide in Europe, especially through the welcome effect of early standardization on the terminal cost and therefore on the worldwide competitiveness of European

(.../3)

manufacturers. New applications that can be expected will soon have significant and European wide impact in numerous fields as distinct as education, health care, tourism, public administration, and will also boost productivity by their integration in major firms or SME internal processes.

For all these reasons, CNES will make its unlimited resources and genuine support available to ESOA in its drive to reach its ambitious goals. It will look attentively at its projects and will study on a case-by-case basis how to contribute effectively to them.”

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Background

Europe*Star is a satellite operator headquartered in London, a joint venture between Alcatel Space and Loral Space & Communications. Europe*Star operates its own mission control centre in Toulouse, and has regional marketing offices in Cape Town and New Delhi. Europe*Star leases capacity for full-time and occasional use services. Brought into service January 2001, Europe*Star 1 has five high-power beams covering Europe, Southern Africa, Middle East, Indian subcontinent and South East Asia. A second satellite, Europe*Star B, provides additional capacity for markets in Central and Eastern Europe. Europe*Star is also an investor in Stellat, a joint venture with France Telecom. www.europestar.com

Eutelsat S.A. Eutelsat S.A. is one of the world's leading satellite operators. The company provides coverage across four continents, encompassing Europe, the Middle East, Africa, south-west Asia, eastern North America, and South America. Eutelsat's satellite infrastructure gives it the flexibility to offer direct-to-home broadcasting, video distribution and contribution services, corporate network solutions and a portfolio of IP applications including broadband Internet access and Internet backbone connections. From its strategic HOT BIRD™ orbital position at 13 degrees East and other orbital positions, Eutelsat transmits more than 1200 television and 600 radio stations reaching an overall audience of more than 100 million cable and satellite homes. www.eutelsat.com

(.../4)

HISPASAT, Spain's national satellite operator manages the orbital position 30 degrees West over the Atlantic, offering advanced services in Europe and America for

broadcasting and telecommunications. Its system of three active satellites, 1A, 1B, 1C provides a total of 54 transponders, able to deliver digital and analogue services, as well as different modulation schemes. Their exceptional coverage over the American continent, Europe, the Azores and North Africa enables Latin American and European operators to develop new multimedia services or multicultural content over a digital platform, including major cable networks operators in South America. A new satellite for 30 degrees West, 1D, which will be launched in the second part of this year will increase the current capacity of the system to offer interactive IP services, audiovisual and advanced telecommunications. Its technology permits having a specific beam oriented towards the Mediterranean and Middle East regions. Furthermore, Hispasat has contracted a new satellite AMAZONAS to be placed on the Brazilian orbital position 61 degrees West, to initiate operating the 63 equivalent Ku and C-band transponders by the year 2003, combining North and South American as well as transatlantic connectivity. Hispasat is a technology led company, developing a number of high-level RD projects in Europe. It is also an active partner in the Spanish Galileo Consortium, in close collaboration with the Galileo project in Europe. www.hispasat.com

Inmarsat Ventures PLC owns and operates a global satellite network and distributes its solutions through a world-wide group of service providers to end customers in the maritime, aeronautical and multinational corporate sectors. The Group operates in three core areas: Global mobile satellite communications, transportable broadband communications solutions, and provision of content and applications to its key markets.

The Inmarsat Ventures Group consists of:

- Inmarsat Ltd., the primary subsidiary which owns and operates the Inmarsat network of nine geostationary satellites.
- Invsat Ltd., providing integrated telecommunications systems and services including satellite systems, radio systems and very small aperture terminal satellite (VSAT) solutions to the oil and gas, maritime, government and emergency services markets.
- Rydex Corporation Ltd., an applications developer providing wireless e-mail and data communications software for the maritime industry.
- Airia Limited, developing live television broadcasts for the airline industry.

www.inmarsat.com

New Skies Satellites N.V. (AEX, NYSE: NSK) is a global satellite communications company offering video, Internet, voice and data communications services to a range of broadcasters, Internet service providers and telecommunications carriers around the world. With its network of five geostationary satellites, three under construction, and ground facilities around the world, it is one of only four fixed satellite services companies with truly global satellite coverage. Headquartered in The Hague, The Netherlands, New Skies has offices in London, Johannesburg, New Delhi, São Paulo, Singapore, Sydney and Washington, D.C. www.newskies.com

Nordic Satellite AB (NSAB), headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden, owns and operates the SIRIUS satellite system, a leading broadcasting and broadband infrastructure for the North and East European regions. The Sirius system consist of three satellites located at orbital positions 13 degrees West and 5 degrees East providing cost-effective solutions for TV and radio broadcasting, broadband-, VSAT- and occasional services. NSAB is an SES GLOBAL partner. www.nsab-sirius.com

SES GLOBAL is the world's premier satellite company, born out of the combination of ASTRA, Europe's leading provider of satellite capacity for direct-to-home reception, and AMERICOM, one of the leading Fixed Satellite Services operators based in the U.S. SES ASTRA and SES AMERICOM are the operating companies of SES GLOBAL, with 29 wholly-owned satellites. The company also owns strategic holdings in first-class regional satellite service providers with 13 additional satellites, which are SES GLOBAL partner companies: AsiaSat and AMERICOM ASIA-PACIFIC in Asia, Star One and Nahuelsat in Latin America, as well as NSAB in Europe. 95% of the world's population live within the footprints of the SES GLOBAL satellite network. In addition, SES GLOBAL holds stakes in satellite technology companies Gilat and NDSatcom. SES GLOBAL shares are listed on the Stock Exchanges in Luxembourg and Frankfurt. www.ses-global.com

Telespazio, a market leader in space systems and satellite telecommunications, offers a wide range of services and solutions in the fields of space activities, telecommunications, television services, mobile communications, earth observation, remote sensing, and is an investor in major satellite telecommunications projects.

At its Fucino Space Centre, Telespazio offers complete support to space missions, from mission definition and operation preparation through LEOP (launch and early orbit phase) execution and in-orbit operation.

With forty years of experience and know-how in satellite communications, Telespazio is a key figure in the Telecom Italia Group, a world leader in telecommunications. Telespazio's unique expertise successfully integrates earth and space technologies, offering optimized solutions to satisfy any satellite communications requirement. EVOLV-E, Telespazio's satellite interactive multimedia platform, represents its most recent development devoted to multimedia communication. Telespazio's web site is at www.telespazio.it

Telenor is a worldwide provider of high quality telecommunications, data and media communication services, headquartered in Oslo, Norway. In the area of satellite broadcasting Telenor is a leading provider of digital pay-TV services in the Nordic region, via its direct-to-home platform and its Thor satellites at the 1°W orbital location. Efficient fixed satellite network solutions are offered via VSAT systems in Europe and beyond. Telenor is also a leading global provider of mobile satellite services. www.telenor.com