

Eutelsat ties up procurement and launch contracts for EUTELSAT 172B Asia-Pacific satellite

- **Airbus Defence and Space to deliver first European satellite to perform electric orbit raising**
- **Arianespace to launch in first half 2017**
- **Prime gateway in the Asia-Pacific region to benefit from new satellite delivering high performance and flexibility**

Paris, 31 July 2014 – Eutelsat Communications (NYSE Euronext Paris: ETL) today announced it has sealed procurement and launch contracts with Airbus Defence and Space and Arianespace for the EUTELSAT 172B satellite.

As an early follow-on programme to EUTELSAT 172A, the new triple mission satellite will provide continuity and expansion capacity at Eutelsat's 172° East orbital position that is a prime gateway for services in the Asia Pacific region.

The 3.5 tonne satellite to be manufactured by Airbus Defence and Space will be launched by an Ariane 5 rocket in first half 2017 and will use electric propulsion for initial in-orbit raising and all station-keeping manoeuvres. The reduction in mass will enable this powerful (13 kW) satellite to be launched with the Ariane 5 lower position, offering lower launch costs. In-orbit raising is expected to take approximately four months.

EUTELSAT 172B will host regular C-band and Ku-band payloads. It will also host the Pacific Ocean Region's first Ku-band High Throughput payload which Panasonic Avionics Corporation has already selected as its key growth platform for in-flight broadband and live TV for commercial airlines on trans-Pacific and Asian routes.

The procurement contracts announced with Airbus Defence and Space and Arianespace, two leading players in the European space industry, reflect Eutelsat's commitment to innovation that contributes to increasing competitiveness and improving customer service. In addition to electric propulsion for in-orbit raising, EUTELSAT 172B will be Eutelsat's first satellite equipped to dynamically distribute power between beams connected to its High Throughput payload. This facility will enable Eutelsat to respond to traffic variations across the eight time zones covered by the payload's 11 beams that span from the Western seaboard of North America to South-East Asia.

Michel de Rosen, Eutelsat Chairman and CEO, said: *“With the allocation of the contracts to manufacture and launch EUTELSAT 172B awarded to Airbus Defence and Space and Arianespace, we are placing our trust once again in two industry leaders who understand our rigour and high expectations. Through a combination of three distinct payloads, electric propulsion and dynamic power distribution, EUTELSAT 172B reflects our commitment to innovations that benefit our customers and raises the game for the satellite business.”*

EUTELSAT 172B payloads:

- A C-band payload of 14 physical transponders delivering increased power and broader coverage to enhance service and tap into new growth markets in South East Asia.
- A regular Ku-band payload of 36 physical transponders that will more than double capacity at 172° East. Transponders will be connected to five improved service areas: North Pacific, North East Asia, South East Pacific, South West Pacific and South Pacific.
- A High Throughput Ku-band payload specifically designed for in-flight broadband, featuring multiple user spots optimised to serve densely-used Asian and trans-Pacific flight paths and interconnected to gateways operating in the Ka band. This new payload will be the first customised for in-flight connectivity over the Pacific Ocean Region, delivering an overall throughput of 1.8 Gbps to an underserved market forecast to enjoy sustained growth over the coming years.

EUTELSAT 172B will be based on the Eurostar E3000 platform of Airbus Defence and Space.

About Eutelsat Communications

Established in 1977, Eutelsat Communications (NYSE Euronext Paris: ETL, ISIN code: FR0010221234) is one of the world's leading and most experienced operators of communications satellites. The company provides capacity on 37 satellites to clients that include broadcasters and broadcasting associations, pay-TV operators, video, data and Internet service providers, enterprises and government agencies. Eutelsat's satellites provide ubiquitous coverage of Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Americas, enabling video, data, broadband and government communications to be established irrespective of a user's location. Headquartered in Paris, with offices and teleports around the globe, Eutelsat represents a workforce of 1,000 men and women from 32 countries who are experts in their fields and work with clients to deliver the highest quality of service. For more about Eutelsat please visit www.eutelsat.com

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