

# APSCC Monthly e-Newsletter

## JUNE 2024

The **Asia-Pacific Satellite Communications Council (APSCC) e-Newsletter** is produced on a monthly basis as part of APSCC's information services for members and professionals in the satellite industry. Subscribe to the APSCC monthly newsletter and be updated with the latest satellite industry news as well as APSCC activities! To renew your subscription, please visit [www.apsc.or.kr](http://www.apsc.or.kr). To unsubscribe, send an email to [info@apsc.or.kr](mailto:info@apsc.or.kr) with a title "Unsubscribe."

*News in this issue has been collected from May 1 to May 31.*

### INSIDE APSCC

#### **APSCC 2024 Satellite Conference & Exhibition (APSCC 2024), November 5-7, Bangkok**

APSCC Satellite Conference and Exhibition, the largest three-day annual gathering of the Asia Pacific satellite and space community, is your defining platform that brings the industry together for market insight, striking partnerships and concluding business deals. This year the APSCC 2024 Satellite Conference and Exhibition will be heading to Bangkok, Thailand. Regarding sponsorship, exhibition and speaking opportunity, please contact the APSCC 2024 team at [apsc2024@apsc.or.kr](mailto:apsc2024@apsc.or.kr)

### SATELLITE BUSINESS

#### **New SAILOR XTR Marine Satellite TV Antennas Set to Boost Viewing Experience at Sea**

May 30, 2024 – Cobham Satcom announces today that its all-new SAILOR XTR TVRO antennas – SAILOR XTR 100 TVRO and SAILOR XTR 120 TVRO – are now commercially available and ready to order. Combining decades of in-house expertise from Cobham Satcom's market-leading Sea Tel TVRO portfolio with the latest innovations in maritime satellite communication from the SAILOR XTR VSAT platform, these antennas introduce new capabilities and enhanced performance levels for a wide range of vessel types, from superyachts and cruise ships through to merchant vessels. Based on the innovative SAILOR XTR platform, the new TVRO portfolio provides improved serviceability through the industry first, built-in IP integration option of third-party devices, offering unique and easy, remote access for rapid, time and cost-effective service resolution. [Read more](#)

#### **SES Launches SES Open Orbits™ Inflight Connectivity Network**

May 29, 2024 – SES announced that it has reached agreements-in-principle with several regional satellite network operators to launch the SES Open Orbits™ Inflight Connectivity (IFC) Network to enable seamless connectivity services to airlines around the world. This fully interoperable Ka-band platform will combine the geostationary earth orbit (GEO) and medium earth orbit (MEO) satellite networks of SES; NEO Space Group (NSG), a subsidiary of Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF); AeroSat Link (ASL), a subsidiary of China Satcom; and Hughes Communications India (HCI). SES Open Orbits™ aims to enable satellite operators with regional satellite coverage to be able to participate in a worldwide IFC service offering to airlines. SES Open Orbits™ will support an open architecture network where traffic can be intelligently steered from one interoperable Ka-band network to another for a seamless connected airline passenger experience across the satellites of multiple parties. The global inflight connectivity network will use multi-orbit and multi-waveform capacity offered by regional connectivity service partners and SES to deliver resilient services, such as quality video, data, and communications offerings like those offered on the ground. [Read more](#)

#### **Intelsat Delivers Unprecedented Connectivity to Palau with Dual-Satellite Solution**

May 29, 2024 – Intelsat, operator of one of the world's largest integrated satellite and terrestrial networks, has successfully implemented a dual-satellite connectivity solution for Palau, delivering

reliable “always-on” service for Palau’s 18,000 inhabitants who live across nine islands in the main archipelago. Intelsat’s solution for Palau utilizes two Intelsat geostationary satellites in separate orbital slots, offering unparalleled redundancy and flexibility. This multi-layered design, employing software-defined wide area networking (SD-WAN) technology, seamlessly blends the two satellites for ultimate resiliency. Critical infrastructure prioritizes C-band connectivity during outages, while the broader population benefits from the increased capacity of the Ku-band. This dual-band approach also provides PNCC with the ability to seamlessly scale Ku-band capacity as needed in the future. [Read more](#)

### **KT SAT Signs MoU with Rivada for Next Generation Data Network**

May 28, 2024 – KT SAT, Korea’s national satellite communications services provider, and Rivada Space Networks have signed an MoU to provide next-generation connectivity for Enterprise and Government customers, enabling expansion in Asia Pacific and beyond. KT SAT will deploy Rivada’s outernet, a unique space-based network in low earth orbit, to provide ultra-secure connectivity to Enterprise, Government and Maritime companies looking for scalable and resilient solutions for their expanding networks. And with Asia’s subsea cables, which carry much of the world’s data, increasingly becoming a focal point of geopolitical tensions, the region now, more than ever, needs resilient infrastructure, which is fast, secure, and reliable. [Read more](#)

### **Intelsat Multi-Orbit Inflight Connectivity Coming to Japan Airlines**

May 28, 2024 – Intelsat was selected by Japan Airlines to provide multi-orbit inflight connectivity service on more than 20 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft to be delivered in the coming years. The airline will become one of the first in the Asia-Pacific region to offer reliable, multi-orbit service using Intelsat’s new electronically steered array (ESA) antenna. The new service will be installed by Boeing in the factory, making JAL one of the first airlines to take delivery of a Boeing aircraft with ESA inflight service ready for immediate passenger use. The first linefit aircraft is expected to be delivered in 2026. The Intelsat ESA is less than seven centimeters tall and interoperates on both Intelsat’s family of geo-stationary satellites and its partner’s constellation of Low Earth Orbit satellites. [Read more](#)

### **Japanese Consortium Achieves World's First Demonstration of 5G Communication from Altitude of 4km Using 38GHz Band**

May 28, 2024 – SKY Perfect JSAT Corporation, NTT DOCOMO, INC., the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT), and Panasonic Holdings Corporation (Panasonic HD) jointly announced today that they have successfully conducted a 5G communication verification test in the 38GHz band1 from an altitude of approximately 4km using a small Cessna aircraft operated by Kyoritsu Air Survey Co., Ltd. simulating the eventual use of High-Altitude Platform Stations (HAPS). The demonstration was the first of its kind in the world. In this groundbreaking trial to demonstrate the practical application of 5G feeder link and backhaul line for HAPS, a Cessna aircraft was equipped with newly developed communication equipment (“Cessna onboard station”) that is expected to be deployed eventually in HAPS. Additionally, a lens-type antenna with an auto-tracking function was used as the HAPS ground station (“ground station”). [Read more](#)

### **Hughes Unveils Revolutionary Commercial Aviation LEO ESA at AIX**

May 28, 2024 – Hughes Network Systems unveiled its groundbreaking Low Earth Orbit (LEO) Electronically Steerable Antenna (ESA) for In-Flight Entertainment & Connectivity (IFEC) at the Aircraft Interiors Expo (AIX). This state-of-the-art technology is poised to transform the aviation industry by providing enterprise-grade, low latency, high-speed connectivity for global commercial aviation. The Hughes In-Flight Connectivity LEO ESA is only a fraction of the size and weight of traditional IFEC SATCOM antennas. It leverages the core technology used in adjacent verticals such as business aviation and enterprise connectivity and is built at the Hughes state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Germantown, Maryland. Optimized for the Eutelsat OneWeb LEO system, the Hughes In-Flight Connectivity LEO ESA will deliver a living room experience to passengers in the

skies. [Read more](#)

### **ST Engineering iDirect Next-Generation Hub Infrastructure Selected for Indonesia's First Multifunction Satellite**

May 28, 2024 – ST Engineering iDirect, a global leader in satellite communications, and PT. Bis Data Indonesia, a network and satellite-based internet service provider, are partnering to deploy a next-generation hub infrastructure for the Indonesian government-owned Satria-1 satellite. The implementation is part of the country's initiative to enable connectivity to thousands of public facilities including schools, regional government offices and health facilities across remote areas of the Indonesian Archipelago. ST Engineering iDirect has been selected to supply Satria-1 with its next-generation iDirect Hub Infrastructure DCR/DBR, deployed on its Dialog ground system. The iDirect Hub Infrastructure provides a highly scalable and flexible solution for Dialog-based gateway deployments. It also lays the groundwork for future migration to Intuition, ST Engineering iDirect's standards-based, cloud-native next-generation ground system. [Read more](#)

### **Intelsat Named First Foreign GEO Satellite Operator Licensed to Sell/Operate in the Philippines**

May 28, 2024 – Intelsat is the first foreign GEO satellite operator licensed to sell products in the Philippines. The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) of the Philippines granted a Satellite Service Providers and Operators (SPPOs) license allowing Intelsat to provide satellite access and backhaul solutions to mobile network operators, telecommunications carriers and internet service providers (ISPs) throughout the 7600 islands of the archipelago. The license will allow Intelsat's Philippine partners to expand cellular networks beyond their existing terrestrial limits to provide 4G anywhere in the country, allow ISPs to offer Internet access to Philippine citizens living in remote Barangays and add redundancy and resiliency to their microwave and fiber networks. [Read more](#)

### **Hughes Signs MoU to Join the Airbus HBCplus Program**

May 28, 2024 – Hughes Network Systems, LLC (HUGHES), an EchoStar company, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Airbus to become a managed service provider (MSP) for the Airbus HBCplus catalogue offering to airlines. With both companies focused on providing airlines the flexibility they require to unlock the possibilities of In-Flight Connectivity, the agreement between Airbus and Hughes is a fusion of innovation and expertise. This MoU is the first step for Hughes toward integration into the Airbus network of MSPs as a Ka-band provider, extending the Hughes In-Flight Connectivity services to Airbus aircraft. Hughes and Airbus continue to explore opportunities for other connectivity architectures & services (including Ku-band provider). [Read more](#)

### **Intelsat Inflight Service Launches on Condor's New Airbus Fleet**

May 28, 2024 – Intelsat launched high-speed, reliable inflight connectivity service on the first of more than 40 new Condor Airlines' Airbus narrowbody aircraft following an agreement that includes factory installation by Airbus. German-based Condor will have 2Ku connectivity on 43 Airbus A320neo and A321neo aircraft immediately upon delivery from the manufacturer. The installations will be completed under Airbus' High-Bandwidth Connectivity Service program. Condor earlier this month started revenue service with the first A320neo with the remaining 42 aircraft planned for delivery through the end of 2028. 2Ku is designed to operate not just on today's high-throughput Geostationary (GEO) satellites but on Intelsat's fleet of new software-defined satellites that will enter service in 2026. [Read more](#)

### **Resorts World Cruises Becomes First Asian Cruise Line to Deploy Integrated MEO-LEO Service from SES**

May 27, 2024 – Resorts World Cruises, an international cruise line that is homegrown in Asia offering luxury and dynamic lifestyle experiences, has announced an agreement with SES to install its fully-

integrated Medium Earth Orbit (MEO) and Low Earth Orbit (LEO) service on the cruise lines' flagship Genting Dream with similar future plans for the Resorts World One cruise ship. The installation of the MEO and LEO service will provide reliable high-speed connectivity, offering the next-level of guest experience at sea. These include unlocking a suite of personalised digital services ranging from world-class entertainment, shopping to dining experiences onboard. Resorts World Cruises is the first cruise line in Asia to deploy the new integrated offering, SES Cruise mPOWERED + Starlink PRO Service, enabling its guests to enjoy power connected applications across the ship's onboard accommodations, including the all-inclusive luxury Palace suites, spas, and first-class entertainment. [Read more](#)

#### **Viasat and Azercosmos to Expand Satellite Services across EMEA and Asia**

May 23, 2024 - Viasat announced it is working with Azercosmos to bring its highly reliable L-band satellite services to Azerbaijan and beyond. Under the proposed arrangement, Azercosmos and Viasat will provide connectivity for a range of industrial applications to help organizations operate more efficiently, sustainably, or safely - even in the most remote locations. This includes powering applications like tracking and telemetry for advanced transport systems, pipeline monitoring and control for energy companies, real-time control for utilities, and environmental or safety monitoring for mining and agriculture. Azercosmos provides a range of telecommunications, remote sensing, surveying, and ground station communications services in both public and private sectors. The collaboration with Viasat will significantly expand its available connectivity offering, meaning it can provide more services for existing and new customers alongside connectivity from its existing satellite fleet. [Read more](#)

#### **Intelsat to Extend Life of Additional Satellites with Mission Extension Vehicles**

May 23, 2024 – Intelsat will deliver years of additional reliable broadband, video distribution and mobile satellite service to customers across three continents thanks to the success of Northrop Grumman's innovative Mission Extension Vehicle (MEV) that will ultimately provide an expected additional nine years of life to the Intelsat 10-02 (IS-10-02) geosynchronous satellite. Geosynchronous Earth orbit (GEO) satellites have an average lifespan of about 15-20 years before they start running low on fuel. Intelsat in 2020 became the first satellite operator to commit to deploying two of Northrop Grumman's MEVs to extend the life of an otherwise healthy satellite. Both MEVs have been successful at their mission and have allowed IS-10-02 and Intelsat 901 (IS-901) to provide five years of service beyond the expected lifespan of the satellite. Under amendments to the original agreements with Northrop Grumman's SpaceLogistics LLC, both MEVs will stay in space serving Intelsat satellites for several more years, allowing them to operate longer. [Read more](#)

#### **Eutelsat Ku-band Capacity Selected by InterSAT to Extend its Pan-African Satellite Services to Enterprise and Retail Customers**

May 23, 2024 – Eutelsat Group has extended its partnership with InterSAT one of Africa's leading satellite service providers to support InterSAT's growth in the Pan-African enterprise and retail segments. Under the latest multi-year strategic deal, InterSAT will add Ku-Band capacity over Central and Eastern Africa on Eutelsat's EUTELSAT 70B satellite to its current portfolio which already includes Ka-Band capacity on the EUTELSAT KONNECT satellite. Located at the 70.5° East orbital position, EUTELSAT 70B offers a broad wide beam coverage and four high-performance fixed beams, with a high degree of on-board connectivity. [Read more](#)

#### **Arabsat Launches Multicontinental Managed Satellite Services on neXat Platform**

May 23, 2024 – The neXat platform will be used by major operator Arabsat to manage its hubs with minimal human intervention, reducing operational costs and unlocking the delivery of new services. Arabsat has signed a deal with satellite services and technology provider neXat to be able to manage various hubs in a single application for its new multicontinental managed services offering. The offering will deliver managed services to various verticals including governmental, enterprise and

consumer, in every geographical market where it has coverage. The neXat platform is empowering this offering by extending the capabilities of Arabsat's hubs and functioning as the primary orchestration tool for running Arabsat's operations. The virtualized platform as a service (PaaS) and Operations Support System-Business Support System (OSS-BSS) will automate tasks such as customer VSAT terminal lifecycles, network monitoring and management, and billing. [Read more](#)

### **Yahsat Partners with Eutelsat Group to Leverage EUTELSAT KONNECT Satellite to Drive Growth across its Global Footprint**

May 22, 2024 – Eutelsat Group and YahClick, the data solutions' arm of Al Yah Satellite Communications Company PJSC (Yahsat), the UAE's flagship satellite solutions, today announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), enabling YahClick to leverage capacity on Eutelsat's geostationary satellite, EUTELSAT KONNECT. The collaboration between the two leading satellite operators is in line with Yahsat's efforts to elevate its offerings and drive growth across its satellite broadband footprint in Africa to provide enhanced services and expand into new markets in Africa and beyond. As part of the agreement, Yahsat will enjoy exclusive rights to Eutelsat's KONNECT capacity over Ethiopia, one of the fastest-growing African markets. [Read more](#)

### **ST Engineering iDirect and Arabsat Strengthen Partnership for Expanded Market Access on Arabsat BADR-7 and 6A Broadband Managed Services**

May 22, 2024 – ST Engineering iDirect and Arabsat are extending their successful multi-year partnership to bring connectivity to new markets in the Middle East, Africa and West/Central Asia. While Arabsat's BADR-7 Ka-band satellite and 6A Ku-Band satellite currently service locations including Africa, Middle East and parts of Asia, the government-backed satellite service provider is now working alongside ST Engineering iDirect to expand its coverage to manage connectivity services in countries that face poor infrastructure challenges. Arabsat's expansion into new markets is part of Saudi Arabia's wider initiative to continue to invest in space, diversify from the media and broadcast sector and bring satellite internet capabilities to users in remote and underserved areas through its VSAT broadband business. [Read more](#)

### **SES and SatProf's GVF Training Program Collaborate in First Digital Badging Initiative for Satcom Education**

May 21, 2024 – SES and SatProf, developer and administrator of GVF Training, a satcom industry-leading training program delivered in association with the Global Satellite Operators Association (GSOA), announced the introduction of the first digital badging initiative for satcom education. This collaboration aims to drive the future of learning in the industry, and it already offers three digital badges for courses focusing on SES's O3b MEO constellation and services. In contrast to traditional certificates, digital badges can be easily shared, displayed, and updated on various online platforms, such as social media or professional networking sites. SES rolled out its own digital badging program in 2023, enabling employees to show the progress they are making in their career using learning and development tools offered by the company. By adding this level of visibility to courses and certifications in the GVF Training program, both companies aim to extend this experience to SES's customers and partners, fostering a culture of continuous learning for the wider industry. [Read more](#)

### **Intellian Expands their TVRO Portfolio with the Introduction of the t360CK**

May 21, 2024 – Intellian Technologies Inc., a leading global provider of feature-rich, resilient satellite communications solutions, announces the development of a 3.6m TVRO system, to enable passengers on cruise ships access to TV services worldwide. Available for pre-order with delivery scheduled for later this year, the t360CK is a groundbreaking system thanks to its ability to electronically switch between C-Band and Ku-Band, while supporting C-Band linear and circular polarization in the same feed, helping blockage mitigation and creating true system resiliency for the TVRO services. The system will also provide greater diversity allowing for multiple modes of operation; individual or combined link configurations for greater availability of services. For the



cruise lines, this means less down time and resources spent on feed swaps to the antenna while changing regions, as now these changes and adjustments can be made automatically through Aptus NTV (GUI). [Read more](#)

### **Infostellar Starts Work on New Satcoms Gateway at Taiki Ground Station**

May 21, 2024 – Infostellar, a dedicated satellite antenna hosting business and Ground-Segment-as-a-Service (GSaaS) provider, is pleased to announce that it has started construction of a new satellite communications (satcoms) gateway at its Taiki Japan ground station in support of an unnamed satellite internet connectivity provider. In addition to this new gateway in Taiki, Infostellar is also the provider of GSaaS services from a network of stations that include Viasat RTE, Amazon Web Services (AWS-GS), and other ground stations in strategic locations globally supporting a wide range of international satellite operators to delivery their TT&C and data downlinks delivering their images and other information in near-real-time. Infostellar also provides a portfolio of technical and regulatory services to complement its GSaaS and hosting businesses. [Read more](#)

### **iDirect Government to Build 5G Co-Channel Interference Mitigation Prototype for Defense Innovation Unit**

May 21, 2024 – iDirect Government (iDirectGov), a leading provider of satellite communications to the U.S. military and government, has won a contract with the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) to build an operational 5G co-channel interference mitigation solution prototype, leveraging iDirectGov’s leading Communication Signal Interference Removal (CSIR™) technology. The award builds momentum for the recently established iDirectGov Engineering Center of Excellence where iDirectGov specialized engineers work on the most advanced, secure and resilient satellite ground systems and functionality. iDirectGov’s 5G co-channel solution will mitigate interference for DIU mission partners, providing a critical capability to Department of Defense (DOD) users who experience 5G co-channel interference. This solution is an extension of iDirectGov’s CSIR technology that delivers uninterrupted secure communications on any radio frequency to government users, allowing them to thwart electronic warfare challenges. [Read more](#)

### **Inmarsat Launches NexusWave: a Game-changing ‘Bonded’ Network Service for Maritime Communications**

May 20, 2024 – Inmarsat Maritime, a Viasat company, has launched NexusWave, a fully managed connectivity service underpinned by a ‘bonded’ multi-dimensional network, offering high-speed connectivity, unlimited data, global coverage, and ‘secure by design’ infrastructure. Delivered by a single provider, NexusWave is a fully managed service that seamlessly integrates multiple high-speed networks in real time – Global Xpress (GX) Ka-band, low-Earth orbit (LEO) services, and as-available coastal LTE service - with an additional layer of L-band for resiliency – for fast, always-on connectivity. The solution also offers enterprise grade firewall security trusted by global enterprises and governments. [Read more](#)

### **AT&T and AST SpaceMobile Announce Definitive Commercial Agreement**

May 16, 2024 – AT&T and AST SpaceMobile have entered a definitive commercial agreement to provide a space-based broadband network direct to everyday cell phones. This agreement extends until 2030. Previously the companies were working together under a MoU. This summer, AST SpaceMobile plans to deliver its first commercial satellites to Cape Canaveral for launch into low Earth orbit. These initial five satellites will enable commercial service that was previously demonstrated with several key milestones. These industry first moments during 2023 include the first voice call, text and video call via space between everyday smartphones. [Read more](#)

### **Thuraya Unveils Groundbreaking Next Generation IP NEO Terminal Developed in Collaboration with Cobham Satcom**

May 15, 2024 – Thuraya Telecommunications Company has announced IP NEO, the first in a new

family of next-generation satellite communications products packed with advanced features and technology. The state-of-the-art IP NEO has been designed to deliver powerful simultaneous voice and data transfer capabilities making it the ideal product for government, non-governmental organisations, the energy sector, and enterprise use cases. The product was developed in partnership with Cobham Satcom, a leading manufacturer of robust satcom solutions, and showcases Thuraya's commitment to delivering cutting-edge satellite communication solutions to meet the evolving needs of its customers. The IP NEO is a lightweight portable satellite L-band broadband data terminal and part of a rich portfolio of products based on a robust platform manufactured by Cobham Satcom. The product is primed to leverage the advanced capabilities of the Thuraya 4 Next Generation System (T4-NGS) to provide enhanced connectivity services and extended coverage. [Read more](#)

### **EchoStar Awarded a U.S. Navy Wireless and Telecommunications Contract to Provide 5G Smart Devices and Services for the DoD and Federal Agencies**

May 15, 2024 – EchoStar Corporation announced they have been awarded an indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contract as part of the U.S. Naval Supply Systems Command Spiral 4 wireless products and services purchasing program. EchoStar subsidiaries Hughes Network Systems and Boost Mobile will provide 5G wireless services and devices to support DoD usage in all 50 United States and U.S. territories and for temporary duty international travel. Administered by the U.S. Navy, the Spiral 4 program is available to buyers in the Department of Defense and other federal agencies. Like previous iterations, Spiral 4 will include mobile device delivery and task orders for service plans. The estimated value of the program with all yearly options is up to \$2.7B over 10 years. [Read more](#)

### **ST Engineering iDirect's SKYflow Wins 2024 NAB Show Product of The Year Award**

May 15, 2024 – ST Engineering iDirect announced today that its SKYflow ecosystem solution is a winner under the Hardware Infrastructure category in the 2024 NAB Show Product of the Year Awards. This awards program recognizes some of the most significant and promising new products and technologies showcased by exhibitors at the NAB Show. SKYflow is a collaboration between ST Engineering iDirect and its partners, EKT, EasyBroadcast, and Quadrille. It is a DVB native IP over satellite ecosystem that offers cost-effective, ultra-fast, low-latency delivery of live and on-demand video to mobile devices and large screens alike for global audiences. [Read more](#)

### **Marlink Strengthens its Global Customer Proximity to Meet Growing Demand for Digital Solutions**

May 14, 2024 – Marlink, the leading smart network and digital solutions company, is expanding its global service support network in strategic maritime locations to better serve its growing customer base with its innovative portfolio of digital solutions. Marlink has consistently increased its share of the maritime, energy and offshore markets. The expansion of service capabilities reflects the need to address customer pain points in the digitalisation process as maritime companies strive for efficiency and simplified regulatory compliance. The addition of new solutions and services requires advanced expertise in connectivity, managed networks, cloud access, cyber security, IoT and applications. [Read more](#)

### **Thuraya Network Coverage Restored in the Indo-China Region as Recovery Measures Underway**

May 10, 2024 – Further to our previous communications about the unexpected payload anomaly and service outage on the Thuraya 3 (T3) satellite, Thuraya is pleased to announce that it has successfully recovered services within the Indo-China region. This region includes Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Western Malaysia, Western Indonesia, Singapore and majority of China, and is witnessing a traffic increase in both voice and packet services. Thuraya is encouraging all its service partners and customers in these locations to test the service and provide feedback as part of its continued efforts to restore services. Thuraya remains fully focused on recovering services in the remaining impacted Asia Pacific territories. We will provide further updates on this in due course. [Read more](#)

### **mu Space: Pioneering the Future of Space Tech and Smart Electronics in Thailand**

May 9, 2024 – In addition to its endeavors in space technology, mu Space has also received a second BOI approval for the development of Advanced Inference Machine for Oculars (AIMO) products. This initiative reflects the company's commitment to advancing smart electronics and leveraging emerging technologies to drive growth in this sector. These innovative products hold the potential to transform various industries, enhance Thailand's competitiveness on the global stage, and provide essential legal support for companies operating in the smart electronics sector. [Read more](#)

### **SES's O3b mPOWER System Launches Service via Gilat's SkyEdge IV Platform**

May 7, 2024 – Gilat Satellite Networks Ltd., a worldwide leader in satellite networking technology, solutions, and services, announced today that its SkyEdge IV platform is enabling SES's O3b mPower System to deliver high-performance connectivity services. SkyEdge IV is Gilat's next-generation multi-service platform. It is the industry's first VSAT platform enabling multi-orbit operations supporting service deployment utilizing MEO and GEO Very High Throughput Satellites (VHTS) and Software Defined Satellites (SDS). SkyEdge IV features the most advanced VSAT platform technology, enabling unrivalled system flexibility and the highest performance for critical communications. [Read more](#)

### **Hanwha Phasor Expands to the United States**

May 6, 2024 – Hanwha Phasor, a UK-based satellite communications business, today announced that following a successful four years in the UK, it has opened its first office in the United States. The initial focus of the business will be on developing its market position in the US which presents a wider potential for the portfolio of user terminals. The office, located in Virginia, will serve as the primary base for the Hanwha Phasor employees based in the US, including the Vice President Business Development Mike Young, the recently joined Business Development Director, Rick LePage, and the new Commercial Director Aviation, Scott McCobb. [Read more](#)

## **BROADCAST**

### **Intelsat Extends Partnership with Sony Pictures Networks India to Deliver Content across Asia-Pacific**

May 30, 2024 – Intelsat has renewed its partnership with Sony Pictures Networks India in delivering premium entertainment content to millions of viewers across Asia-Pacific including Southeast Asia where there is a large Indian diaspora. The renewal of the partnership underscores Intelsat's position as Sony Pictures Networks India's preferred satellite solutions provider, facilitating the transmission of captivating Indian content to over a billion viewers daily in India and beyond. Leveraging Intelsat's robust satellite infrastructure, Sony Pictures Networks India has achieved unparalleled reach and reliability, providing high uptime. [Read more](#)

### **SPOTV Partners with MEASAT to Bring Top-Tier Global Sports to Fans Across Asia Pacific**

May 28, 2024 – MEASAT Global Berhad ("MEASAT") – Malaysia's premier satellite solutions provider has signed with SPOTV via its subsidiary SPOTV Media Solutions Sdn Bhd to support SPOTV's Asia Pacific playout operations from the MEASAT Teleport and Broadcast Centre (MTBC) in Cyberjaya. The scope of the agreement entails the provision of MEASAT's world-class teleport facilities to enable SPOTV's Broadcast Production Suite and Data Centre services. SPOTV had previously selected MEASAT for satellite capacity and uplink services on MEASAT-3d, whereby this new expansion of scope deepens the collaboration between the entities. SPOTV, one of the leading media platforms in Asia renowned for its extensive sports content, offers content via its two regional live and on-demand channels SPOTV and SPOTV2 through affiliate partners across the Asia Pacific, as well as on the SPOTV NOW multi-device streaming web platform and app. Content available on SPOTV includes the upcoming UEFA EURO 2024, MotoGP, BWF World Tour and Major events, World Table Tennis events, the tennis grand slams including Wimbledon and US Open, key golf events including LIV Golf, The



Masters and The Open Championship, and much more. [Read more](#)

### **AsiaSat Signs Managed Distribution Service Deal with MySat Launching a Bouquet of Arabic TV Channels on AsiaSat 9 for Australia**

May 23, 2024 – Asia Satellite Telecommunications Co. Ltd. (AsiaSat) has signed an agreement with MySat Pty. Ltd. to provide managed distribution services for MySat’s Direct-To-Home (DTH) platform that delivers a premium bouquet of Arabic TV channels in Australia. MySat’s Australian DTH service is being launched on AsiaSat 9’s Australasia beam from the orbital location of 122 degrees East and will benefit from AsiaSat 9’s excellent power and optimal look angles over the Australia landmass. MySat customers can receive high quality satellite TV reception with a small antenna. This new satellite neighborhood on AsiaSat 9 has become a significant attraction for Arabic channels looking to relocate and expand their reach to audiences in Australia. The robust managed solution provided by AsiaSat includes satellite bandwidth, fibre connectivity to deliver primary content, and a teleport in Australia for uplinking to the DTH platform. This ensures home viewers receive the highest level of quality and reliability. [Read more](#)

### **DISH TV and Hughes Debut First Bundled Service Offering to Enhance Connectivity and Entertainment across Rural America**

May 16, 2024 – DISH Network and Hughes Network Systems, both EchoStar companies, announced a new bundled service offering that brings the power of DISH satellite TV together with Hughesnet® satellite internet to create a superior solution in TV and internet for rural America. In today's fast-paced, ultra-connected world, quality entertainment and reliable connectivity are crucial to the modern rural home, making this collaboration between DISH and Hughesnet a critical step toward enhanced accessibility across rural America. With this bundle, rural consumers – who are too often overlooked and left with limited options – can watch top-rated programming on their televisions, plus enjoy the benefits of a high-speed internet connection no matter where they live. [Read more](#)

### **SES's Ethiosat Now Delivers Content to 95% of TV Homes in Ethiopia**

May 14, 2024 – SES, a content connectivity solutions provider, announced that its Ethiosat platform at the 57 degrees East orbital position now delivers content to 17 million TV households in Ethiopia, an increase of 7 million compared to 2022, with its reach penetration growing to 95%. The Ethiopian TV market has undergone a continuous rapid expansion as the number of TV households has increased by 400% since 2017 to 18.2 million homes now receiving TV content. The penetration of HD homes in the market has also increased from 48% to 62% since 2021, with Ethiosat’s number of HD TV channels growing from 15% to 62%. [Read more](#)

### **QVC Signs Multi-Year Contract Extensions with SES in Germany and the UK**

May 7, 2024 – Home shoppers across Germany, Austria and Switzerland as well as the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland will continue to receive an immersive, high-quality in-home shopping experience as QVC Germany and QVC UK have extended their partnerships with SES in multi-year agreements. For QVC Germany, the extension secures capacity on SES’s prime neighbourhood at the 19.2 degrees East for QVC HD, QVC2 HD and QVC Style HD channels. For QVC UK, the extension secures capacity over SES’s 28.2/28.5 degrees East satellites for QVC HD, QVC Style HD, QVC Beauty and QVC Extra as well as ground services, including uplinking, encoding and monitoring. [Read more](#)

## **LAUNCH / SPACE**

### **PLD Space and Exolaunch Join Forces to Expand Commercial Access to Space**

May 28, 2024 – PLD Space and Exolaunch today announced their joint mission of expanding European access to commercial space opportunities, with the two companies signing a Strategic

Partnership Agreement to provide competitive and sustainable end-to-end launch services for small satellites. PLD Space, the pioneering Spanish space launch company, and Exolaunch, a global leader in launch mission integration and deployment technologies, share the same vision of ensuring reliable access to space for small satellites. At the 4S Symposium held in Mallorca this week, Pablo Gallego, VP of Sales & Customers of PLD Space, and Jeanne Allarie, Chief Commercial Officer at Exolaunch, penned this agreement to obtain Exolaunch launch capacity on PLD Space's MIURA 5 launcher and to provide deployment, mission management, and integration services on future missions. [Read more](#)

### **SKY Perfect JSAT Selects Thales Alenia Space to Build a New Cutting-edge Software-defined Satellite "JSAT-31"**

May 27, 2024 – SKY Perfect JSAT and Thales Alenia Space announced they have signed a contract to build JSAT-31, a new generation of software-defined satellite based on the Space INSPIRE (INstant SPace In-orbit REconfiguration) platform by Thales Alenia Space. Operating both in Ka and Ku frequency bands, JSAT-31 High Throughput Satellite will offer high speed broadband services over Japan, South-East Asia, Australia, New Zealand and Pacific islands. JSAT-31 will have the largest capacity in the history of SKY Perfect JSAT satellites and is expected to launch in 2027. JSAT-31, which is the 31st satellite procured by SKY Perfect JSAT counting from JCSAT-1, is the first satellite ordered from Thales Alenia Space. Additionally, starting with this JSAT-31, SKY Perfect JSAT will be calling their new satellites "JSAT" instead of "JCSAT" and "Superbird". As the prime contractor, Thales Alenia Space is responsible for the design, manufacturing, tests and on-ground delivery of the satellite as well as for the ground segment and associated services. The development of the Space INSPIRE product line is supported by CNES. [Read more](#)

### **Airbus Awarded Space Weather Spacecraft Mission Vigil**

May 22, 2024 – Airbus has been selected by the European Space Agency (ESA) to design and build the space weather forecasting satellite Vigil, the first operational mission in ESA's Space Situational Awareness (SSA) Space Safety Programme (S2P). The spacecraft will give vital extra warning to Earth about incoming solar storms and coronal mass ejections which can potentially disrupt satellites in orbit and electronic and power distribution systems on Earth. Vigil will be positioned at Lagrange point L5 on the same orbit as the Earth, 150 million km behind it as the Earth orbits the Sun. This will enable Vigil to see the Sun as it rotates, and see the size and speed of solar weather heading towards the Earth. Data from Vigil could provide notice of four to five days of solar winds streaming toward Earth. [Read more](#)

### **Thales Alenia Space Signed a Contract with the ESA to Develop a Low Earth Orbit Cargo Return Service**

May 22, 2024 – Thales Alenia Space has signed a first phase contract worth €25m with the European Space Agency (ESA) to demonstrate a complete cargo delivery service to and from space stations in low-Earth orbit by 2028. The development of this LEO Cargo Return Service will be co-founded by Thales Alenia Space. During this two-year phase contract (from June 2024 to June 2026), Thales Alenia Space, as the prime contractor, will develop the service through the consolidation of the business plan and the preliminary engagement of potential investors and customers. The company will also be responsible for the initial development of the spacecraft, focusing on requirements, architectures, technology maturation and de-risking activities. [Read more](#)

### **Airbus Delivers First Active Antenna of the SpainSat NG-I Satellite**

May 16, 2024 – Acceptance testing of the active transmit antenna for Hisdesat's SpainSat NG-I satellite has been successfully completed following the final radiation pattern tests. The antenna is now being integrated onto the satellite at the Airbus facilities in Toulouse, France. Once integrated, the antenna and satellite will undergo thermal vacuum tests (TVAC) and then vibration tests. The two SPAINSAT NG satellites of Hisdesat include a highly advanced, fully flexible X-band payload, which

employs active antennas with in-orbit reconfiguration capability, an integrated digital processor that will interconnect the X- and Ka-band payloads for cross-banding, and a dedicated high-speed service link that enables rapid reconfiguration. [Read more](#)

### **AAC Clyde Space Wins EUR 2.3 M Order for 16U Satellite**

May 15, 2024 – AAC Clyde Space has won its first order for its 16U EPIC satellite to be delivered and commissioned by June 2026. The total order value is EUR 2.3 M (approx. SEK 27.0 M). The satellite will be part of the ESA OPS-SAT VOLT mission and will be capable of hosting multiple payloads. The mission, led by Craft Prospect Ltd. (CPL) is part of ESA's ARTES Scylight programme. It aims to test and evaluate groundbreaking real-time techniques and technologies with a focus on optical and quantum direct to earth communication. The mission's objective is to demonstrate products and services within a Versatile Optical Laboratory for Telecommunications (VOLT). Several capability demonstrations are planned, including quantum key delivery, optical communications, and hyperspectral imagery capture for climate resilience applications. Payload experimentation will be facilitated through a secure, reconfigurable high-performance computing system. [Read more](#)

### **SSC and Perigee to Launch Satellites from Esrange**

May 7, 2024 – SSC and South Korean rocket company Perigee Aerospace Inc. have signed a collaborative agreement to launch satellites jointly from Esrange Space Center in northern Sweden, starting 2025. Perigee's Blue Whale 1 microlauncher will be the first-ever orbital rocket launched from Esrange. The two-stage launch vehicle has the capacity to place up to 200 kg into a 500 km Sun-Synchronous Orbit. Together, SSC and Perigee will develop a service concept with a shared payload space onboard the rocket to make room for both companies' customer bases. Enforced by SSC's global satellite ground station network, this service could also be supplemented by additional space-to-ground services. [Read more](#)

## **EXECUTIVE MOVES**

### **Kuva Space Welcomes André Parris as Global Head of Business Development**

May 21, 2024 – Finnish hyperspectral satellite and AI-powered insights company Kuva Space has announced the appointment of André Parris as its new Global Head of Business Development. Parris, a seasoned veteran in the geospatial industry, brings a wealth of experience from renowned satellite companies and analytics providers like Planet Labs and Bloomberg and is poised to drive Kuva Space's business development and growth to new heights. André's extensive background includes roles at BlackSky, Planet Labs, and Atlas AI. During his time at Bloomberg, he was responsible for developing Bloomberg Maps (BMAP), a pioneering interactive mapping platform that revolutionized the use of geospatial data in financial markets. This innovative tool provided Bloomberg's 325,000+ customers with unprecedented access to geospatial analytics, significantly enhancing market trading strategies. [Read more](#)

## **REPORTS**

### **Inmarsat 'Digital Wave' Report Explores Importance of Connectivity onboard 'Floating Offices' at Sea**

May 15, 2024 – Inmarsat Maritime, a Viasat company, has launched a new report Digital Wave: Transforming vessels into floating offices and remote homes. The report explores the growing importance of 'always-on' onboard connectivity as ships and their crew become increasingly reliant on digital technology. In an era that sees ships functioning as 'floating offices', a reliable network connection optimises vessel operations and enhances life on board. Equally, the consequences of any loss of connectivity on safety, efficiency, and seafarer welfare can be severe. Compiled by maritime technology research firm Thetius, the report draws on interviews and survey data to provide insight

into how crews and shore-based teams are using digital technologies today. It begins by examining emerging technology trends: specifically, how ships are becoming floating offices and the resultant demand for collaborative and always-on software. [Read more](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Australasia Satellite Forum 2024**, June 3-4, Sydney, Australia,  
<https://www.talksatellite.com/EVENTS.htm>

**APSAT 2024**, June 4-5, Jakarta, Indonesia, <https://apsat.assi.or.id/>

**India Space Congress 2024**, June 26-28, New Delhi, India, <https://www.indiaspacecongress.com/>  
**DISCOUNT COUPON CODE for APSCC members & friends: APSCC-15-ISC-2024**  
Registration link: <https://www.indiaspacecongress.com/foreign-register/>

**Connected Industries @MWC Shanghai 2024**, June 26-28, Shanghai, China,  
[https://www.mwcshanghai.com/connected-industries?utm\\_parameter=mwcshanghai&utm\\_source=apsc&utm\\_medium=Partners&utm\\_content=](https://www.mwcshanghai.com/connected-industries?utm_parameter=mwcshanghai&utm_source=apsc&utm_medium=Partners&utm_content=)

**New Horizons in Air and Space Law: Treaties, Technologies, and Tomorrow's Challenges**  
August 1-2, Singapore, <https://law.nus.edu.sg/trail/airspacelaw-mcgill-iasl-home/>

**SmallSat 2024**, August 3-8, Logan, UT, USA, <https://smallsat.org/>

### PTC'DC

5-6 September, Washington D.C., USA,  
[https://www.ptc.org/ptcdc?utm\\_source=partner&utm\\_medium=banner&utm\\_id=apsc](https://www.ptc.org/ptcdc?utm_source=partner&utm_medium=banner&utm_id=apsc)

PTC'DC is PTC's new mid-year conference – bringing together government officials, regulators, private equity firms, policy makers, senior industry leaders, and PTC Members in an exclusive environment. Join PTC for insightful discussions, presentations, and vital dialogue on the future of digital infrastructure.

**IBC 2024**, September 13-16, Amsterdam, Netherlands, <https://show.ibc.org/>

**World Satellite Business Week 2024**, September 16-20, Paris, France, <https://wsbw.com/>

**IAC 2024**, October 14-18, Milan, Italy, <https://www.iafastro.org/events/iac/international-astronautical-congress-2024/>

**APSCC 2024 Satellite Conference & Exhibition (APSCC 2024)**, November 5-7, Bangkok, Thailand,  
<https://apscsat.com/>

### EDITORIALS AND INQUIRIES

*News, comments, and suggestions can be sent to the editor at:*

*Inho Seo, Editor, APSCC Publication  
Asia-Pacific Satellite Communications Council (APSCC)  
T-1602, 170, Seohyeon-ro, Bundang-gu, Seongnam-si,  
Gyeonggi-do, 13590, Rep. of KOREA  
Tel: +82 31 783 6247 | Fax: +82 31 783 6249  
E-mail: [editor@apsc.or.kr](mailto:editor@apsc.or.kr) Website: [www.apsc.or.kr](http://www.apsc.or.kr)*



### **About APSCC**

*APSCC is a non-profit, international organization representing all sectors of satellite and space-related industries. The aim of the organization is to exchange views and ideas on satellite technologies, systems, policies and outer space activities in general along with satellite communications including broadcasting for the betterment of the Asia-Pacific region. Conferences, forums, workshops, and exhibitions are organized through regional coordination with its members in order to promote new services and businesses via satellite as well as outer space activities. APSCC membership is open to any government body, public or private organization, association, or corporation that is involved in satellite services, risk management or associate fields such as data-casting, informatics, multi-media, telecommunications and other outer-space related activities with interests in the Asia-Pacific region. More information is available at [www.apscc.or.kr](http://www.apscc.or.kr).*