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**EUTELSAT PARTICIPATES IN FIRST TESTS OF HDTV OVER FRANCE'S DIGITAL TERRESTRIAL TELEVISION NETWORK IN PARIS, MARSEILLES AND LYON**

Paris, 1 June 2006

From June 1 to July 17 Eutelsat is partnering with TDF to transmit a sequence of programmes in HDTV MPEG4 to Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) transmitters in France's three largest cities. The satellite channel provided by Eutelsat will deliver HDTV programmes supplied by leading French channels including France Télévisions, TF1, M6 and Canal Plus to DTT transmitters in Paris, Marseilles and Lyon.

The objective of the six-week period of tests coordinated by the Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel (CSA), France's broadcasting authority, is to validate the full HD broadcasting chain to DTT homes from encoding, transport and broadcasting, through to reception. The capacity provided by Eutelsat is on ATLANTIC BIRD™ 3 which is also the satellite already used to deliver all five DTT multiplexes to over-the-air transmitters in France since the full commercial launch of DTT in March 2005.

Programmes on the test HD DTT channel began on June 1 with live coverage by national public broadcaster France Télévisions of tennis matches from the centre court at Roland Garros shot by six HD cameras set up in the centre court. The satellite signal is delivered to DTT transmitters operated by TDF located on the Eiffel Tower in Paris and also in Marseilles and Lyon. TF1, M6 and Canal Plus will also participate until July 17 with HD content produced on the occasion of key events including World Cup football and Bastille Day commemorations on July 14.

## **About Eutelsat Communications**

Eutelsat Communications (Euronext Paris: ETL, ISIN code: FR0010221234) is the holding company of Eutelsat S.A. The Group is a leading satellite operator with capacity commercialised on 23 satellites providing coverage over the entire European continent, as well as the Middle East, Africa, India and significant parts of Asia and the Americas. The Group is one of the world's three leading satellite operators in terms of revenues. Its satellites are used for broadcasting nearly 1,800 TV and 900 radio stations to more than 120 million cable and satellite homes. The Group also provides TV contribution services, corporate networks, mobile positioning and communications, Internet backbone connectivity and broadband access for terrestrial, maritime and inflight applications. Eutelsat Communications is headquartered in Paris, and the Group's workforce comprises over 480 from 27 countries.

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### **For further information**

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