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## **EUTELSAT SELECTS ALCATEL ALENIA SPACE FOR W7 SATELLITE TO BOOST 36 DEGREES EAST NEIGHBOURHOOD**

Paris, December 21, 2006

Eutelsat Communications (Euronext Paris: ETL) and Alcatel Alenia Space announced that the two companies have signed a contract under which Alcatel Alenia Space will manufacture and deliver Eutelsat's W7 communications satellite.

To be launched in second quarter 2009 to Eutelsat's 36 degrees East location, W7 will double the capacity currently available at a key neighbourhood in the Group's fleet of geostationary satellites. Through a configuration of high-performance fixed and steerable beams, W7 will also boost coverage and flexibility for addressing growing markets, notably in central Asia and Africa.

W7's mission comprises up to 70 Ku-band transponders that can be connected to six beams serving Europe, Russia, Africa, the Middle East and central Asia. To be copositioned with Eutelsat's W4 satellite, which already serves anchor pay-TV operators in Russia, the Ukraine and sub-Saharan Africa, W7 will enable Eutelsat to almost double bandwidth for digital video services in these regions. It will also replace all capacity on Eutelsat's SESAT 1 satellite which serves Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and central Asia, and bring fresh capacity to South Africa through a high-power fixed beam, and also to central Asia through a spotbeam which can be oriented in orbit. Following W7's deployment at 36 degrees East, SESAT 1 will continue in commercial service at an alternative location.

Weighing in at 5.6 tonnes and with 12 kW of payload power, W7 is based on the Alcatel Alenia Space Spacebus 4000 platform and will be boosted into orbit by Sea Launch.

Commenting on the satellite's procurement, Eutelsat CEO Giuliano Berretta said: "Since 2000, we have proactively built our video neighbourhood at 36 degrees East into a prime location for digital markets in eastern Europe and Africa. This commitment has won the confidence of pay-TV operators who are pioneers in their markets, notably NTV Plus from Russia, Poverkhnost from the Ukraine and

MultiChoice Africa which reaches large parts of sub-Saharan Africa through this neighbourhood. In order to support growth for broadcast and telecommunications services in these regions and to boost capacity for other markets, we looked closely at how we could even more efficiently exploit the resource at 36 degrees East. With W7, this key position in our fleet will benefit from capacity enabling us to use the full spectrum of Ku-band frequencies, and to respond to market demands in multiple regions through a high degree of operational flexibility.”

"We are very pleased and fully committed to supporting Eutelsat's sustainable growth." said Pascale Sourisse, CEO of Alcatel Alenia Space. "We are also very proud of working alongside Eutelsat to meet the increasing market demand and emerging new applications by delivering technologies with outstanding performance. W7 is the second satellite after W2A to be awarded by Eutelsat to our company in 2006. This contract further consolidates an historical year for our company: we have been chosen by a large number of operators, making us the world leader in the communications satellite market."

#### **About Eutelsat Communications**

Eutelsat Communications (Euronext Paris: ETL, ISIN code: FR0010221234) is the holding company of Eutelsat S.A.. With capacity commercialised on 23 satellites that provide coverage over the entire European continent, as well as the Middle East, Africa, India and significant parts of Asia and the Americas, Eutelsat is one of the world's three leading satellite operators in terms of revenues. At 30 June 2006 Eutelsat's satellites were broadcasting over 2,100 television channels and 970 radio stations, of which over 900 channels were broadcasting via its HOT BIRD™ video neighbourhood which serves more than 110 million cable and satellite homes in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. The Group's satellites also serve a wide range of fixed and mobile telecommunications services, TV contribution markets, corporate networks, and broadband markets for Internet Service Providers and for transport, maritime and in-flight markets. Eutelsat's broadband subsidiary, Skylogic, markets and operates services through teleports in France and Italy that serve enterprises, local communities, government agencies and aid organisations in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas. Headquartered in Paris, Eutelsat and its subsidiaries employ 490 commercial, technical and operational experts from 27 countries.

[www.eutelsat.com](http://www.eutelsat.com)

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#### **About Alcatel Alenia Space**

Alcatel Alenia Space is the European leader in satellite systems, at the forefront of orbit infrastructures. Created in July 2005, the company brings together the vast experience and know-how of Alcatel Space and Alenia Spazio to form a new leading force in European space technology. Alcatel Alenia Space represents a worldwide standard for space development that impacts everybody's future: from navigation to telecommunications, from meteorology to environmental monitoring, from defense to science and observation.

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