

EUTELSAT's HOT BIRD™ 8 BROADCAST SATELLITE SPEEDS INTO ORBIT

Paris, 5 August 2006

The HOT BIRD™ 8 broadcast satellite of Eutelsat Communications (Euronext Paris: ETL) was successfully launched today by a Proton Breeze M launch vehicle from the Baikonur Cosmodrome at 03.48 am Baikonur time August 5 (23.48 CET August 4; 21.48 GMT August 4). Weighing in on the launch pad at 4.9 tonnes, HOT BIRD™ 8 is the largest and most powerful European Ku-band broadcast satellite to go into geostationary orbit.

In less than 10 minutes after lift-off, the three-stage Proton vehicle supplied by International Launch Services (ILS) finished its climb into space, leaving the Breeze M upper stage to continue its mission for the next nine hours. The Breeze M's engine underwent five burns to place the EADS Space-built satellite into a transfer orbit. The satellite was separated this morning from the Proton launch vehicle at 06.59 GMT with signal acquisition established by Eutelsat from its Rambouillet teleport near Paris. Manoeuvres that will be conducted over the next days include full circularisation of the satellite's orbit and deployment of the solar panels and antenna reflectors, which will be followed by a series of in-orbit tests.

Giuliano Berretta, Eutelsat Communications CEO said: "Equipped with a payload which spans the entire range of frequencies at our 13 degrees East position, HOT BIRD™ 8 takes our inter-satellite back-up to a new level of security. We are looking forward to bringing our new broadcast satellite into commercial service in October, less than six months since HOT BIRD™ 7A went live at 13 degrees East. My particular thanks also go to our industrial partners, EADS Space for completing this important satellite programme and ILS for executing a faultless launch for our company."

HOT BIRD™ 8 will assume all broadcast traffic currently carried by the 20-transponder HOT BIRD™ 3 which will subsequently continue commercial service at an alternative location. The new satellite's additional capacity will contribute to raising in-orbit security at Eutelsat's HOT BIRD™ video neighbourhood which broadcasts

950 digital channels to over 110 million cable and satellite homes across Europe, North Africa and the Middle East.

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 more than 2,100 TV and 970 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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