



PR/16/06

**NTV-PLUS, RUSSIA'S LEADING PAY-TV PLATFORM, EXPANDS RESOURCE ON
EUTELSAT'S W4 SATELLITE THROUGH NEW CONTRACT WITH RSCC**

Paris, 21 March 2006

Eutelsat Communications (Euronext Paris: ETL) announces that NTV-Plus, Russia's leading direct-to-home pay-TV platform, is boosting its capacity on Eutelsat's W4 satellite from six to eight transponders. The new agreement for high-power capacity on Eutelsat's W4 satellite has been concluded between NTV Plus and the RSCC (Russian Satellite Communications Company), Russia's national satellite communications operator and a longstanding partner with Eutelsat in the Russian market.

The new capacity will be used by NTV-Plus to expand its pay-TV platform which was launched in 1997 and today serves 450,000 subscriber homes, mainly located in Russia, through Eutelsat's W4 satellite. Since the beginning of March three new television channels (NTV-Plus Tennis, NTV-Plus Sport Classic, Nash Football) have already joined the existing offer of 60 digital channels. Up to 20 further channels are planned for launch in the coming months.

"Since its launch on Eutelsat, NTV-Plus has built up its position as a key player in eastern Europe's vibrant broadcasting landscape," said NTV-Plus Director General Dmitry Samokhin. "Through this new capacity we are now equipped to extend and diversify the range of channels we offer subscribers. The superior coverage provided by Eutelsat's W4 satellite will also support our expansion in CIS countries which are experiencing rapid development of digital services and present great potential for growth for our digital platform."

For Giuliano Berretta, Eutelsat CEO, "The development of our key video neighbourhood for eastern Europe at 36 degrees East sits at the heart of our strategic objectives for Eutelsat's continued growth. NTV-Plus was the first broadcaster to deliver pay-TV to Russia from 36 degrees East and the first client to join our W4 satellite when it was launched in 2000. Today, the success and the expansion of NTV-Plus consolidate our position in a region in which we have built a longstanding presence and which we firmly believe will continue to expand as the demand for broadcast and broadband services rapidly take hold."

About NTV Plus

NTV-Plus is an independent Russian satellite broadcaster covering all of European Russia. NTV-Plus went on air on September 1, 1996, when its first fully-owned analogue channel, Nashe Kino (Our Cinema) started broadcasting. By December 1997 four channels were broadcasting: Nashe Kino, Mir Kino (Cinema World), NTV-Plus Sport and Detsky Mir (Children's World). On February 1, 1999, the company started digital broadcasts of all its channels. Today, the NTV-Plus platform serves 450,000 homes, equivalent to more than 1.5 million viewers, and employs over 900 people.

NTV-Plus offers its subscribers best Russian and foreign channels alike, as well as its own channels. Today, subscribers of NTV-Plus can receive more than 60 stereo sound channels (with DOLBY DIGITAL 5.1 since 2005) that are transmitted directly from satellite. They include five news channels, 13 movie channels, 10 sports channels, five learning channels, music and children's channels. Broadcasts are dubbed in Russian, English, Italian, Spanish, French and Chinese.

NTV-Plus is particularly proud of its own sports channels – NTV-Plus Sport, NTV-Plus Football, NTV-Plus Tennis, NTV-Plus Sport Classics and Sport Online. The company owns a number of exclusive broadcast rights to show sports events including NHL and NBA matches, Grand Slam tennis, the Federation Cup, the Davis Cup and the Cup of Russia figure-skating tournament as well as professional boxing. NTV-Plus offers five of its own film channels including the highly acclaimed NTV-Plus Premiera and NTV-Plus Kinoklub (Cinema Club). Each year the fully-owned channels of NTV-Plus show 365 brand new productions and a selection of around 1000 films from the world cinema collection.

www.ntvplus.ru

For further information

NTV-Plus Press Service: +7 495 775-5634, Anastasia Kazakova

E-mail: Anastasia.Kazakova@ntvplus.com

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.

www.eutelsat-communications.com

For further information

Press Relations

Vanessa O'Connor

Tel: + 33 1 53 98 38 88

voconnor@eutelsat.fr

Frédérique Gautier

Tel: + 33 1 53 98 38 88

fgautier@eutelsat.fr

Investor Relations

Gilles Janvier

Tel: +33 1 53 98 35 35

investors@eutelsat-communications.com