

PR1903

## **LAUNCH OF EUTELSAT'S e-BIRD™ SATELLITE**

Paris, August 21, 2003

Following the announcement by Arianespace of a further delay to flight V162, Eutelsat deplores this new postponement and the consequent delay to the launch of its e-BIRD™ satellite which is dedicated to broadband services. Eutelsat confirms that the satellite is in excellent condition at the Kourou Space Port and perfectly ready for launch.

Built by Boeing Satellite Systems, the e-BIRD™ satellite has been available for several months and waiting for the Ariane launch programme to resume. The spacecraft arrived at the Kourou Space Port on August 1 for a launch which was initially scheduled for August 28 on an Ariane 5 rocket. Arianespace has explained that this new delay is due to a request for additional checks on another satellite to be launched on the same mission as Eutelsat's e-BIRD™ satellite.

e-BIRD™ is the first satellite in Europe specifically designed for two-way broadband services with an architecture that incorporates the asymmetrical nature of Internet traffic between the request and content delivery channels. The satellite will be positioned after launch at 33 degrees East and will provide coverage of the European Union countries including new entrants, as well as the Balkans and Turkey, through four high-power beams.

### **About Eutelsat**

With capacity commercialised on 23 satellites that provide coverage from the Americas to the Pacific, Eutelsat S.A. is one of the world's leading satellite operators. Eutelsat's satellite infrastructure gives it the flexibility to offer direct-to-home broadcasting, video distribution and contribution services, corporate network solutions and a portfolio of IP applications including broadband Internet access and Internet backbone connections. From its strategic HOT BIRD™ orbital position at 13 degrees East and other orbital positions, Eutelsat's satellites broadcast more than 1300 television and 800 radio stations and reach an overall audience of 107 million cable and satellite homes.

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