



PR 10/04

**RUSSIAN SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY AND EUTELSAT SIGN A LIFETIME LEASING CONTRACT FOR CAPACITY ON NEW RUSSIAN EXPRESS AM22 SATELLITE**

Paris, 17 March 2004

Eutelsat has signed a contract with the RSCC (Russian Satellite Communications Company) for lifetime lease of 12 Ku-band transponders on the RSCC's Express AM22 satellite that was launched on 29 December 2003 and went into operation on 9 March at 53 degrees East in geostationary orbit. The contract was signed in Moscow on 16 March between Giuliano Berretta, Eutelsat CEO, and Yuri Ismaylov, Acting Director General of the RSCC.

The agreement with the RSCC enables Eutelsat to access high-power Ku-band capacity on the Express AM22 satellite which provides reach of Europe, Africa, the Middle East and central Asia through a highly flexible configuration of fixed and steerable beams. The satellite was built by NPO-PM, with a payload supplied by Alcatel Space for a minimum in orbit life-time of 12 years. These two manufacturers have already collaborated for Eutelsat, for its SESAT satellite.

*"This new contract with the RSCC opens a new chapter in our longstanding relationship with our Russian partner and provides Eutelsat with tremendous scope for serving users for telecommunications, broadband and broadcasting services in Europe, North Africa, Middle East and Asia", said Giuliano Berretta. "Coming 12 hours after the Proton launch of our W3A satellite, it demonstrates our ability to associate internal and external resources that strengthen our offer at the highest level of quality and reactivity to satisfy our clients."*

*"This contract marks the recognition of high-quality and effectiveness of communications services through Russian satellites built by NPO-PM", said Yuri Izmaylov, RSCC Acting Director General. "It also illustrates the range and dimension of the cooperation between two major operators, who use each other's capabilities to work on global satellite communications markets".*

The cooperation between Eutelsat and the RSCC began in 1997 when the RSCC was selected to build Eutelsat's Satellite Mission Control Station at the DUBNA Satellite Communications Centre (near Moscow). The two companies expanded their cooperation in 2001, when Eutelsat concluded a long-term lease of five transponders on the RSCC's communications and broadcasting satellite EXPRESS-A satellite at 11 degrees West. In 2001 the RSCC contracted for capacity on Eutelsat's high-power W4 direct-to-home broadcasting over the European part of Russia.

Eutelsat had originally contracted for capacity on the Express AM1 satellite which is due for launch in late 2004 but decided to accelerate its arrangement with the RSCC in order to benefit from the coverage, power and in-orbit availability of Express AM22.

#### **About Eutelsat**

With capacity commercialised on satellites that provide coverage from the Americas to Far East Asia, Eutelsat is one of the world's leading satellite operators. This satellite infrastructure gives the company the flexibility to offer direct-to-home broadcasting, video distribution and contribution services, corporate network solutions, positioning and communications services for mobile users and a portfolio of IP applications which include broadband Internet access and Internet backbone connections. Eutelsat has developed a range of turnkey broadband products (D-STAR, D-SAT, OPENSKY™) for local communities, SMEs, SoHos and consumers beyond ADSL access. It has also set up a subsidiary called Skylogic Italia to market and operate broadband services through its multimedia platform in Turin (Italy). Eutelsat's satellites broadcast more than 1,400 television and 700 radio stations to an audience of 110 million cable and satellite homes.

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

#### **Press contacts :**

Vanessa O'Connor, [voconnor@eutelsat.fr](mailto:voconnor@eutelsat.fr), Tel + 33 1 53 98 38 88  
Frédérique Gautier, [fgautier@eutelsat.fr](mailto:fgautier@eutelsat.fr), Tel + 33 1 53 98 38 88

#### **About the RSCC**

The Russian Satellite Communications Company (RSCC) is the Russian national satellite communications operator. RSCC is registered at International Telecommunications Union. RSCC is a shareholder of Intelsat and Eutelsat and a major partner of Intersputnik. The RSCC domestic market share is 83% in satellite telecommunications. RSCC possesses an orbital fleet of 12 GEO satellites operating in C-, Ku-, extended Ku- and L- bands. The satellites are positioned in the orbit between 14W and 145E.

RSCC grants on lease space segment capacity on Gorizont, Express-A, Express-AM, Ekran-M, Bonum-1 and Eutelsat W4 satellites, the Earth Station facilities and fiber-optics to distribute federal and commercial TV/radio programs, to set up satellite telephone channels, to transmit data, to render Internet access and videoconferencing services. RSCC deploys regional satellite distribution TV/radio networks, multi-service networks to provide a wide range of telecommunication services by applying VSAT solution. For further information:

[www.rsc.ru](http://www.rsc.ru)

#### **Press contacts :**

Mr. Denis L. Sukhorukov, PR-manager of RSCC, <http://www.rsc.ru>  
Tel.+7-(095)-730-0445, Fax +7-(095)-730-0383 [mailto:pr@rsc.ru](mailto:mailto:pr@rsc.ru)