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**EUTELSAT OFFICIAL SUPPLIER FOR THE 2004 SOLITAIRE AFFLELOU  
LE FIGARO SAILING RACE**

**Eutelsat and BroadServices to provide satellite broadband access for the  
Portsmouth (UK) and Gijon (Spain) stages of the race**

Paris, 1 July 2004

Eutelsat, Europe's leading satellite operator, and BroadServices, that provides IP connectivity, are together partnering the 35th The Solitaire Afflelou Le Figaro race, which will set off from Caen on 19 July, stopping at Portsmouth (UK), Saint-Gilles Croix de Vie (France), and Gijon (Spain). The finish is scheduled on 15 August in Quiberon (France). For the three to four day stopovers in Portsmouth and Gijon, Eutelsat and BroadServices will deploy and operate a satellite-delivered broadband Wi-Fi and local cable network.

The network will serve the PCs, fax machines and voice over IP gateways deployed to enable coverage of the race. In Portsmouth and Gijon, the satellite broadband links will also be used for putting on-line race news and results and for the press to contact editorial offices (a private line will be assigned to Radio France for broadcasting live and prerecorded news for France Inter, France Info and Radio Bleue).

Images of the day's events taken by the production unit covering the race will also be distributed via satellite. And for the first time, a network of IP gateways will enable the organisers, media and skippers to benefit from low-cost international public voice telephony.

"These types of broadband services, which are already used by communities situated beyond the reach of ADSL, are also ideally suited for temporary broadband requirements at events such as The Solitaire Afflelou Le Figaro," explains Philippe

Sevin, Sales Manager for Eutelsat IP Services in France. "For a nomadic international event, the use of equipment that is quick to install and flexible access to bandwidth represents a significant advantage. The seamless coverage afforded by satellites over thousands of kilometres, and the ability to be totally independent from national terrestrial telecommunications infrastructure considerably simplifies the procurement of telecom services for event organisers."

The satellite equipment to be installed at Portsmouth and Gijon will consist of two 96cm antennas, each connected to a 2-way D-Star terminal (the size of a VCR). Each antenna will communicate via satellite with a Eutelsat multimedia platform connected through fibre to the Internet backbone via Broadservices's network control centre.

This partnership is part of Eutelsat's objective to support major sporting events such as Formula 1 racing, the Feria de Nîmes and the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin. Through these events Eutelsat can demonstrate the ability of satellites to rapidly facilitate a local broadband network using easily transportable equipment and flexible bandwidth allocation. On the occasion of The Solitaire Afflelou Le Figaro, Eutelsat is particularly pleased to support a gathering of experienced skippers and new talent in the sailing world alongside another sponsor, GEOLINK, race partner for mobile communications via satellite. GEOLINK will equip the three official yachts and French Navy facilities with Eutelsat's EMSAT satellite communications system.

### **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)

## **About Broadservices**

As an IP communications operator, Broadservices can supply ISPs with all the unbranded tools they need to develop their broadband connectivity over satellite. With its modular-based, upgradable platform for QOS management, ISPs can construct service solutions that give a very high level of professional quality: tailor-made broadband communications offering guaranteed bandwidth, IP telephony based on charging by the minute, unicasting/multicasting, video surveillance systems via a network of IP cameras, International VPNs, etc. Broadservices covers the full transmission process, with a direct connection to the Internet backbone and to the Eutelsat hubs, and is able to provide DSL, Powerline, Laser, Wi-Fi and Wimax compatible products and services.

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

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