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EUTELSAT ACQUIRES RAMBOUILLET (FRANCE) TELEPORT

Acquisition includes site, antennas and high-speed fibre link to Paris

Paris, 2 September 2004

Eutelsat today announced the signature of a contract with France Telecom for the acquisition of its teleport in Rambouillet (France) which accommodates one of Europe's most established ground stations for satellite communications, and where Eutelsat has developed infrastructure and facilities for satellite control, tests and monitoring, as well as for turnkey broadband and mobile services.

Located less than 70km from Paris, the Rambouillet teleport constitutes an integral part of the telemetry, command and ranging (TCR) network for Eutelsat's satellite system. It also hosts the company's payload test facilities, which have been used to commission 20 Eutelsat satellites since the first EUTELSAT II launch in 1990, and payload and communications monitoring facilities which ensure quality of service to customers.

Facilities for the post-launch phase (LEOP) of Eutelsat's satellites are also located at Rambouillet and were inaugurated in March this year with the launch of W3A. This has enabled Eutelsat to internalise the post-launch phase, thereby integrating the complete chain of satellite operations, and equips the company to offer post-launch services to other satellite operators.

Rambouillet is the site selected by Eutelsat for locating infrastructure, including hub stations for value-added broadband and mobile services. It also provides uplink and equipment housing services for third-party broadband service providers offering broadband access and content distribution services. The site is equipped with a redundant STM-4 link (622 Mbps) to Telehouse 2, one of the leading operator exchange points in Paris, which virtually places the teleport in the heart of the French capital.

"The acquisition of the Rambouillet teleport marks a milestone in Eutelsat's expansion," commented Giuliano Berretta, Eutelsat CEO "It meets a strategic

objective to substantially increase control of our satellite operations and equips us with a uniquely-located site for expanding value-added services. Our objective is to build Rambouillet into a major European hub for satellite services in complement to the hub operated in Turin by our broadband affiliate Skylogic Italia. The configuration of two hubs affords mutual sparing and is a guarantee for continuity and quality of service.”

About Eutelsat

With capacity commercialised on 24 satellites that provide coverage from North and South America to Far East Asia, Eutelsat is one of the world's three leading satellite operators. Its satellites are used for broadcasting more than 1,450 television and 700 radio stations to 110 million cable and satellite homes, for TV contribution services, corporate network solutions, positioning and communications solutions for mobile users, Internet backbone connections and broadband access for terrestrial, maritime and in-flight applications. Eutelsat has developed a range of turnkey broadband products (D-STAR, D-SAT, OPENSKY, Skyplex Data) for local communities, corporates, SoHos and consumers. Its broadband subsidiary Skylogic Italia markets and operates services through multimedia platforms in France and Italy that serve sites in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas.

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