



# Director's Report

April 4, 2006

The Satellite Industry Association (SIA) Director's Report is a weekly executive capsule covering current satellite industry news and events.

Your comments are appreciated. Please contact Cindy Spiers at (202) 349-3632.

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## Recent News

**Intelsat** announced that the Agency for the Safety of Aerial Navigation in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA) has signed a long-term, multimillion dollar contract with Intelsat to expand its use of satellite capacity in support of its existing civil aviation network in Africa. ASECNA, the regional public establishment responsible for providing air navigation services in 17 African member countries, will use additional capacity on Intelsat's 10-02 satellite to support the communication systems that will enable airline navigation control, provide technical and traffic information, weather forecasting and guidance to airlines and airplanes in its member countries. The additional capacity will be used for voice and data traffic and provides full coverage of the African continent and Europe, making it easier for ASECNA to expand its network within the Africa Indian Ocean Satellite Network and interconnect with other regional air safety navigation organizations.

**SES ASTRA** signed an agreement with the leading Polish mobile phone operator **Polkomtel** for delivering a broadband Internet access service to the subscribers of Polkomtel's mobile phone network Plus GSM. Polkomtel will use SES ASTRA's satellite-based broadband Internet service and combine it with Polkomtel's existing

wireless Internet service iPlus. The offer also allows iPlus highspeed subscribers with suitable equipment to receive hundreds of digital TV and radio channels transmitted by the ASTRA satellite system from ASTRA's orbital position at 19.2° East.

A new annual award program sponsored by **SES AMERICOM** is aimed at identifying commercially viable ideas and concepts that show promise of advancing communications satellite technology and services. Named for Sir Arthur C. Clarke, the program will award \$50,000 to the winning college or university student or student team that best defines a feasible technical or applications concept that might leapfrog the existing state of development of the industry. Sir Arthur is known worldwide as the author of 2001: A Space Odyssey and dozens of other acclaimed works of science fact and science fiction. He is recognized in global scientific and engineering circles as the genius who first proposed communications satellites in geosynchronous orbit. Monies awarded can be used for any purpose the winner decides. *Story courtesy of MarketWatch*

**SES GLOBAL** announced that it completed the acquisition of 100% of **New**

**Skies Satellites** (NSS). The transaction was completed following satisfaction of the closing conditions, including obtaining the remaining U.S. regulatory approvals on March 29, 2006. The integration of New Skies' assets extends SES' presence in emerging markets like India, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. With the acquisition of New Skies, the satellite fleet of SES GLOBAL and its affiliates now comprises 43 spacecraft at 32 orbital locations.

**Lockheed Martin** has been awarded a preliminary design and concept study start-up contract by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Jet Propulsion Laboratory for the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) aeroshell system. Scheduled for launch in the fall of 2009, the Mars Science Laboratory rover will support the Mars Exploration Program's strategy of "follow the water" and will have the science goals of determining whether the planet was ever habitable, characterizing the climate and geology of Mars, and preparing for human exploration. Lockheed Martin will design and build the aeroshell system, which includes the composite load carrying structure and the thermal protection system (TPS).

**EADS SPACE Services** purchased a 49% stake in **London Satellite Exchange**. The acquisition will strengthen EADS SPACE Services' one-stop-shop strategy of providing satellite capacity and services, including non-military capacity, to Government customers. London Satellite Exchange supplies customers with direct or second hand satellite capacity on a just-

in-time basis. This so called "spot" market has attracted proponents from all sectors but in recent years a peak demand has developed from the Government sector.

**SpaceDev** has been awarded a \$1.25 million contract from the Air Force Research Laboratory Space Vehicles Directorate, for the preliminary design of a nanosatellite capable of independently providing localized Space Situational Awareness of the local space environment of a host satellite. SpaceDev's design for the satellite, otherwise known as an Autonomous NanoSatellite Guardian for Evaluating Local Space (ANGELS), includes the satellite hardware assembly, detailed design schematics, software and flight algorithms, operations manuals, testing plans, and interface control documents. The contract requires the nanosatellite to be capable of flight experimentation by early 2009. The satellite will be designed to have a one-year mission life at geosynchronous orbit, with a three year goal of operational life from the time of launch.

Britain plans to auction 40 megahertz (MHz) of spectrum early next year in a broadcast frequency band that will allow services such as live mobile TV, satellite digital radio and broadband wireless access. The media-to-telecoms regulator **Ofcom** stated that several organizations expressed interest in acquiring licences in the 1452-1492 MHz band or "L" band when plans to release more spectrum were discussed last January. Last year, Ofcom outlined plans for a rolling program of spectrum awards that would total more than 400MHz of prime spectrum. This is

more than the total spectrum now used for mobile telecoms. Ofcom hopes to release the spectrum in the first quarter of 2007, with licenses awarded by "a simultaneous multiple round auction". Further, Ofcom expects that the auctioned licenses would be technology and application neutral and tradable with an initial minimum period of 15 years. *Story courtesy of Reuters*

## The Federal Communications

**Commission's Independent Panel**  
Reviewing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Communications Networks will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. The Panel will hear presentations from its three informal working groups (IWG-1 Infrastructure

Resiliency, IWG-2 Recovery Coordination and Procedures and IWG-3 Emergency Communications) regarding their work to date. The informal working groups' presentations will form the framework for discussion of the specific issues, findings and recommendations to be addressed in the Panel's report to the FCC which must be submitted by June 15, 2006. The report will address the impact of Hurricane Katrina on communications infrastructure, including public safety communications, and recommendations for improving disaster preparedness, network reliability and communications among first responders. Real Audio access to the meeting will be available at [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov).

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

**3-6 April 2006** - United States Space Foundation Symposium, "22<sup>nd</sup> National Space Symposium" Colorado Springs, Colorado [www.spacefoundation.org](http://www.spacefoundation.org)

**18 April 2006** - Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Independent Panel Reviewing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Communications Networks, Commission Meeting Room, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Room TW-C305, Washington, DC; 9 a.m.

**18 April 2006** – SSPI Brown Bag Lunch, *Galileo: The world's first successful international state-of-the-art satellite navigation system primarily for civilian use or a bureaucratic nightmare?* Delegation of the European Union, 2300 M Street, NW - Third Floor Conference Room; 12 – 1:30 p.m.; La Rene Tondro: [sspi@erols.com](mailto:sspi@erols.com), Please RSVP no later than COB Friday, 14th April

**20 April 2006** – Washington Space Business Roundtable Luncheon, Speaker: Dr. Alexis Livanos, President, Northrop Grumman Space Technology; The University Club, Washington, D.C. Details at [www.wsbr.org](http://www.wsbr.org)

**24-25 April 2006** – AIAA and The Space Foundation; Inside Aerospace: An International Perspective, Washington, D.C. [www.insideaerospace.com](http://www.insideaerospace.com)



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**24-27 April 2006** – California Space Authority, 4<sup>th</sup> Responsive Space Conference, Los Angeles, California, [www.californiaspaceauthority.org](http://www.californiaspaceauthority.org)

**11-15 June 2006** - ISCe Conference, San Diego, CA [www.isce.com](http://www.isce.com)

**26-28 September 2006** – APSCC 2006 Satellite Conference and Exhibition, “Satellites – Growing with Asia”, Hotel Lotte World, Seoul, Korea; [info@apsc.or.kr](mailto:info@apsc.or.kr); <http://www.apsc.or.kr/event/apsc2006.asp>

**10-12 October 2006** - United States Space Foundation Symposium, “Strategic Space 2006”, Omaha, Nebraska [www.spacefoundation.org](http://www.spacefoundation.org)

**30 November – 1 December 2006** - California Space Authority, “Transforming Space” Conference, [www.californiaspaceauthority.org](http://www.californiaspaceauthority.org)