

# EUTELSAT W5 COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE LOFTED INTO ORBIT BY DELTA IV ROCKET

Submitted by: Citigate Communications (London)

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New satellite extends Eutelsat's coverage on the Asian market as far as the Pacific Ocean

Paris, 21 November 2002

Eutelsat, one of the world's leading satellite operators, today announced the successful launch of its W5 communications satellite. The satellite was launched during the night of 20/21 November at 23.39 Paris time (17.39 in Florida) from Cape Canaveral by a Delta IV booster supplied by Boeing.

Scheduled to enter into service by the end of 2002, W5 will enable Eutelsat to extend its market presence in Asia as far as the Pacific Ocean. From its orbital position at 70.5 degrees East, it will provide high performance fixed coverage encompassing Europe, Middle East, central and southern Asia. The satellite will also offer the possibility to cover, through steerable beams, north-east Asia including the whole of China and Mongolia as far as Korea and southern Japan, and south-east Asia up to the northern parts of Australia.

W5 is now undergoing a sequence of manoeuvres that are managed for Eutelsat by the German Space Operations Center (GSOC) of the DLR (German Aerospace Centre). Manoeuvres include the partial deployment of the solar arrays that is scheduled within four hours after the launch. Four separate firings of the satellite's boost motor will bring the satellite into a fully circularised geostationary orbit over the next 10 days.

Commenting the successful launch, Eutelsat CEO Giuliano Berretta said: " With the positioning of a flexible and powerful satellite strategically centred between Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, Eutelsat has reached a new milestone in its geographic expansion. From its central position over south Asia, W5 enables telecom operators to offer services both within and between Europe and Asia, with a broad fixed coverage and two steerable beams to cover specific Asian region requirements. It also opens to Asian broadcasters the gateway to Eutelsat's unique broadcast neighbourhoods in Europe. Thank you to Boeing for a faultless inaugural launch and to Alcatel Space, our longstanding partner".

Photo of the launch will be available on Eutelsat's website from 21 November 2002

<http://www.eutelsat.com>

Additional information:

W5 will be capable of delivering a full range of digital communications services: video distribution and contribution links, occasional-use video and particularly Satellite News Gathering (SNG), as well as Internet backbone connections and corporate networks. Through a new bundled turnaround onto Eutelsat's Digital Platforms on its HOT BIRD broadcasting satellites that reach an estimated 96 million cable and satellite homes, Eutelsat will also be able to offer Asian broadcasters seamless connectivity directly into Europe.

W5 is configured with one fixed widebeam covering western Europe, central Asia and the Indian peninsula and two steerable spotbeams. The steerable spotbeams can cover north-east Asia including the whole of China and Mongolia as far as Korea and southern Japan, and south-east Asia as far as northern parts of Australia.

#### Satellite profile

Prime contractor: Alcatel Space

Platform: Spacebus 3000 B2

Mass at launch: 3170 Kg

Lifetime: Minimum 12 years

Launcher: Delta IV

Orbital position: 70.5° East

Coverage: 1 Ku band Widebeam and 2 Ku-band Spotbeams

Payload: 24 transponders (72 MHz bandwidth)

Downlink frequencies: 10.95-11.70 GHz, 12.5-12.75 GHz.

#### About Eutelsat

Eutelsat S.A. is one of the world's leading satellite operators. The company provides coverage across four continents, encompassing Europe, the Middle East, Africa, south-west Asia, eastern North America, and South America. 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 transmits more than 1200 television and 600 radio stations reaching an overall audience of more than 100 million cable and satellite homes.

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