



PR/36/08  
AE 08/29

## **ARIANESPACE FLIGHT 186 SET FOR END NOVEMBER WITH EUTELSAT'S HOT BIRD™ 9 AND W2M SATELLITES**

Paris, Evry, 6 October 2008

Arianespace and Eutelsat Communications (Euronext Paris: ETL) confirm that the upcoming launch of the Ariane 5 ECA will orbit Eutelsat's HOT BIRD™ 9 and W2M satellites. The launch of Flight 186 is planned to take place in the last week of November and will be the sixth Ariane 5 launch in 2008.

The modification to the Arianespace launch manifest enables Eutelsat to ensure timely entry into service of HOT BIRD™ 9 and accelerates the deployment of the W2M satellite.

Built by EADS Astrium, the construction of HOT BIRD™ 9 was completed in July and the satellite arrived in Kourou from Toulouse on September 16 to be prepared for launch. W2M, which is built by EADS Astrium / ISRO is due to be shipped from Bangalore (India) to Kourou by mid-October to initiate final preparations for launch.

Designed for consumer broadcasting to satellite and cable homes across Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, the high-power Ku-band HOT BIRD™ 9 satellite, equipped with 64 transponders, will join Eutelsat's 13 degrees East position to increase in-orbit sparing at the Group's premium video neighbourhood. HOT BIRD™ 9 is identical to HOT BIRD™ 8 which was launched to 13 degrees East in August 2006 and HOT BIRD™ 10 which will be orbited by Arianespace beginning of 2009.

W2M will be positioned at Eutelsat's 16 degrees East position which represents one of the Group's fastest-growing neighbourhoods for digital broadcasting in central Europe and Indian Ocean islands. Equipped with 26 Ku-band transponders and up to 32 depending on

operational modes, the new satellite will replace W2 and provide additional capacity for further service expansion.

### **About Eutelsat Communications**

Eutelsat Communications (Euronext Paris: ETL, ISIN code: FR0010221234) is the holding company of Eutelsat S.A.. With capacity commercialised on 24 satellites that provide coverage over the entire European continent, as well as the Middle East, Africa, India and significant parts of Asia and the Americas, Eutelsat is one of the world's three leading satellite operators in terms of revenues. At 30 June 2008, Eutelsat's satellites were broadcasting more than 3,120 television channels and 1,100 radio stations. More than 1,100 channels broadcast via its HOT BIRD™ video neighbourhood at 13 degrees East which serves over 120 million cable and satellite homes in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. The Group's satellites also serve a wide range of fixed and mobile telecommunications services, TV contribution markets, corporate networks, and broadband markets for Internet Service Providers and for transport, maritime and in-flight markets. Eutelsat's broadband subsidiary, Skylogic, markets and operates services through its teleport in Italy that serves enterprises, local communities, government agencies and aid organisations in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas. Headquartered in Paris, Eutelsat and its subsidiaries employ 538 commercial, technical and operational experts from 27 countries.

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

### **For further information**

#### **Press**

Vanessa O'Connor

Tel: + 33 1 53 98 38 88

[voconnor@eutelsat.fr](mailto:voconnor@eutelsat.fr)

Frédérique Gautier

Tel: + 33 1 53 98 38 88

[fgautier@eutelsat.fr](mailto:fgautier@eutelsat.fr)

#### **Investors**

Gilles Janvier

Tel: + 33 1 53 98 35 30

[investors@eutelsat-communications.com](mailto:investors@eutelsat-communications.com)

### **About Arianespace**

Arianespace is the world's leading launch Service & Solutions company, delivering innovative services and solutions to its customers since 1980. Backed by 23 shareholders and the European Space Agency, Arianespace offers an unrivalled launcher family, comprising Ariane 5, Soyuz and Vega, and an international workforce renowned for their culture of excellence. As of 6 October 2008, Arianespace had launched a total of 263 payloads, including more than half of all the commercial satellites now in service worldwide. It has a backlog of nearly 25 Ariane 5 and 10 Soyuz launches, equal to more than 3 years of business. [www.arianespace.com](http://www.arianespace.com)

### **Mario de Lépine**

Media Relations Manager

Tel : +33 1 60 87 60 15 / 6307

[m.delepine@arianespace.fr](mailto:m.delepine@arianespace.fr)

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