

# year in Review

2015 was quite a busy year for the satellite industry. We look at some of the top stories throughout the year

**JANUARY**

**AL JAZEERA MEDIA NETWORKS STARTS BROADCASTING FROM ES'HAIL 1**

Es'hailSat announced that Al-Jazeera Media Network (AJMN) is now using the Es'hail 1 satellite located at the 25.5-degree East hotspot neighborhood to broadcast content to the full Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

Following one year of successful dual illumination using Es'hail 1 satellite capacity and uplink facilities, Es'hailSat and AJMN said the formal switch over of broadcast services to Es'hail 1 took place on January 1 2015. All existing channels and new channel bundles were available from this date on Es'hail 1.



**APRIL**

**O3B AND MEOSAT PEN CAPACITY DEAL**

O3b Networks announced a multi-year agreement to provide trunking services to service provider MEOSAT.



Dubai-based MEOSAT is a next generation

internet service provider delivering high quality, reliable and efficient communications to the oil and gas industry. MEOSAT offers high performance coverage even to the sector's most difficult and challenging locations with end-to-end network management.

**FEBRUARY**

**INTELSAT AND KYMETA PAIR UP TO PRODUCE SATELLITE ANTENNAE**

Intelsat S.A. and Kymeta Corporation announced an agreement to design and produce flat, electronically steerable, Ku-band mTenna satellite antenna solutions that are optimised for the Intelsat EpicNG high throughput satellite (HTS) platform. The first Intelsat EpicNG satellite is expected to launch in late 2015.

Kymeta's flat, thin, light and low-cost satellite tracking antennas

will be designed to work seamlessly with Intelsat's satellite fleet, providing complete flexibility to establish connectivity in sectors for which traditional antennas are not currently practical or feasible.



**MARCH**

**MHI CHOSEN FOR LAUNCH OF KHALIFASAT EIAS AND MHI.JPG**

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. (MHI) received an order from the MBRSC for launch services for the KhalifaSat observation satellite. The KhalifaSat satellite will be launched on MHI's H-IIA launch vehicle together with GOSAT-2.

The KhalifaSat observation satellite is MBRSC's third satellite, following the DubaiSat-1 and DubaiSat-2 respectively launched in 2009 and 2013.



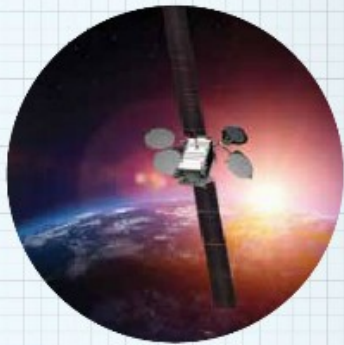
**MAY**

**HERMES DATACOMMS OPENS AN OFFICE IN ERBIL**

Hermes Datacomms, part of the SpeedCast Group, has opened its newest office in Erbil, Iraq. The new facility is in direct response to increasing demand for services from the oil and gas sector in Iraq and will enable the SpeedCast Group to deliver a higher level of service and support in this rapidly growing market.

Osama Oulabi, Business Unit Manager, Middle East, said, "Iraq has been a strategic market for Hermes for the past three years. With the opening of the company's newest office in Erbil, Northern Iraq, we are well-positioned for growth."





**JUNE**

**ABS SELECTS BOEING TO BUILD ABS-8**

ABS announced that it has selected Boeing Satellite International Inc. to manufacture the ABS-8 satellite. ABS-8 will replace ABS-7 at 116.1 degree East orbital location, and will also deliver significant expansion capacity for Asia, Russia and the Middle East. The satellite is expected to launch in 2017.

ABS-8 will be the third all-electric propulsion 702SP satellite ordered from Boeing that minimises the spacecraft's mass and maximises available payload. The spacecraft will have over 9 kW (kilowatts) of payload power and will be equipped with 50 active transponders.

**SEPTEMBER**

**SAUDI ARABIA TO LAUNCH A SATELLITE EVERY TWO YEARS**

King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology designed a 12-year space programme including the launch of a small satellite every two or three years.

Prince Turki bin Saud bin Mohammed, President of KACST, made the disclosure in a speech before a ceremony recently held by NASA to mark the 30th anniversary of launching Discovery.

He said that KACST is scheduled to implement a satellite launching programme starting from 2019 through 2020 and 2023, in collaboration with a team composed from NASA, Stanford and the German Space Agency.

**JULY**

**THURAYA PARTNERS WITH AIRTEL GHANA**

Thuraya Telecommunications, in partnership with Airtel Ghana, announced its strategic launch to provide Ghanaians with 100 percent coverage through terrestrial and mobile satellite connectivity.

Thuraya's satellite-based solutions help bridge the digital divide both for individuals and businesses. The agreement with Airtel Ghana gives people living in rural and remote areas greater and clearer access to voice and data connectivity.

Bilal Hamoui, Chief Commercial Officer at Thuraya, said: "We are working in partnership with Airtel Ghana to make it possible for people to be connected at all times. Our voice communications and broadband services are reliable and robust, and they connect even the most remote and inaccessible places."

**OCTOBER**

**EUTELSAT'S**

**CEO TO**

**STEP**

**DOWN IN**

**MARCH**

**2016**

Eutelsat announced that Michel de Rosen has decided to step down from his position as Chief Executive Officer in March 2016. He will remain in the role of non-executive Chairman of the Board of Directors of Eutelsat until the end of his current mandate in November 2016, at which point his mandate will be submitted to the Annual Shareholders' Meeting for renewal.

Eutelsat's Board of Directors has elected Rodolphe Belmer as the successor to Michel de Rosen in the role of Chief Executive Officer, effective from 1 March 2016. In order to create the conditions for a smooth transition process he will join Eutelsat on 1 December 2015 as Deputy CEO, alongside Michel Azibert, Deputy CEO and Chief Commercial and Development Officer.



**AUGUST**

**EUTELSAT 8 WEST B LAUNCHES FROM KOUROU**

Arianespace's VA225, carrying the Eutelsat 8 West B and Intelsat 34 satellites, lifted off on August 20th, from the Guiana Space Center, Europe's Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana.

Eutelsat 8 West B is the 30th satellite orbited by Arianespace for Eutelsat, the leading satcom operator in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, and number three worldwide in terms of revenues. Arianespace currently has three more satellites in its order book to be launched for Eutelsat.

**NOVEMBER**

**ARABSAT'S BADR-7 LAUNCHES FROM FRENCH GUIANA**

Arabsat's first 6th generation satellite, "Badr-7" was launched successfully this morning from Kourou base on the island of French Guiana in South America, by the Ariane V Rocket.

The Ariane 5 rocket blasted off at 21:34 GMT on Wednesday 11th, carrying Badr-7, a Eurostar satellite, manufactured by Airbus Defense & Space with Thales Alenia Space, to be placed in Arabsat exclusive orbital hotspot 26° East.

This step came as part of Arabsat's expansion projects, and it is the sixth satellite launched during the past seven years on three different orbital positions.

