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CANAL+ Group chooses Eutelsat to deliver DTT services in Africa

CANAL+ Overseas selects EUTELSAT 3B satellite to broadcast new package of DTT channels for French-speaking Africa. First broadcasts planned for end 2015

Paris, 10 September 2015 – Eutelsat Communications (NYSE Euronext Paris: ETL) today announced the signature of a multi-year contract with CANAL+ Overseas, the CANAL+ subsidiary in charge of broadcasting internationally and in French overseas territories. The contract is part of Africa’s ongoing move to a fully digital broadcasting environment which is one of the key technology transformations underway across the continent. CANAL+ Overseas has leased a 72MHz transponder on the EUTELSAT 3B satellite that will be used to deliver a new offer of channels assembled by CANAL+. The channels will be transmitted to Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) transmitters in approximately ten French-speaking countries.

The CANAL+ pay-TV service due to launch by the end of the year will comprise a basic package of 25 channels and a selection of national channels per country. The C-band capacity leased from Eutelsat will deliver the content to terrestrial transmitters across the French-speaking African countries targeted by CANAL+ in an area stretching from Guinea to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Bruno Cattani, Technology & Web Director of CANAL+ Overseas, said: *“Digital switchover is a unique opportunity for Africa and its broadcasting landscape. It opens the door to new channels with improved image quality and more locally produced programmes that better meet viewer expectations. We wanted to seize this opportunity and will use Eutelsat’s powerful African satellite resources to launch a television service that will enable a large number of households on the continent to enjoy the best that television can offer.”*

Michel Azibert, Eutelsat's Deputy CEO and Chief Commercial and Development Officer, added: *"We applaud CANAL+ Group's ambition to step up access to digital channels in French-speaking Africa. Satellite technology is a natural ally for DTT roll-out in the countries targeted by our partner, as the reach we deliver can feed terrestrial networks spread over a huge landmass. With one third of our 38 satellites offering coverage of Sub-Saharan Africa, Eutelsat is fully mobilised to support digital switchover. This contract with CANAL+ Overseas also cements a longstanding partnership with CANAL+ with whom we have been collaborating in Poland and French overseas territories for over 20 years."*

CANAL+ Overseas selected Eutelsat's C-band satellite capacity due to its excellent performance in the equatorial zones in its target markets: C-band ensures very stable broadcasts that are highly resistant to propagation. The DVB-S2 signal will be uplinked to EUTELSAT 3B by Eutelsat from its teleport in Cagliari (Sardinia) with the possibility to switch to DVB-S2X at a later date.

Meet Eutelsat at IBC in Amsterdam from 10-15 September: Stand: Hall 1.D59

About Eutelsat Communications

Established in 1977, Eutelsat Communications (Euronext Paris: ETL, ISIN code: FR0010221234) is one of the world's leading and most experienced operators of communications satellites. The company provides capacity on 38 satellites to clients that include broadcasters and broadcasting associations, pay-TV operators, video, data and Internet service providers, enterprises and government agencies.

Eutelsat's satellites provide ubiquitous coverage of Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Americas, enabling video, data, broadband and government communications to be established irrespective of a user's location.

Headquartered in Paris, with offices and teleports around the globe, Eutelsat represents a workforce of 1,000 men and women from 37 countries who are experts in their fields and work with clients to deliver the highest quality of service.

For more about Eutelsat please visit www.eutelsat.com

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