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Eutelsat puts Africa broadband programme back on track with multi-year capacity agreement with Yahsat

High throughput capacity on existing and future Yahsat satellites to support broadband roll-out by Eutelsat's Broadband for Africa venture

Abu Dhabi, Paris, 27 October 2016 – Eutelsat Communications (NYSE Euronext Paris: ETL) and Yahsat, the Abu Dhabi-based international satellite operator, have signed a multi-year capacity agreement giving Broadband for Africa, Eutelsat's African broadband venture, access to high-performance commercial Ka-band capacity for broadband services across Sub-Saharan Africa.

According to the terms of the agreement Broadband for Africa will use capacity on up to 16 Ka-band spotbeams on the Yahsat 1B satellite in order to roll out broadband services during the first half of 2017. Further expansion will be supported later in the year using capacity on 18 spotbeams on Yahsat's Al Yah 3 satellite, scheduled for launch in early 2017. Both Yahsat 1B and Al Yah 3 are equipped with high power spotbeams with Sub-Saharan African coverage, ideal for community and Direct-to-User Internet access using affordable, off-the-shelf customer premises equipment.

For Eutelsat, this capacity will replace the payload previously contracted on the Amos-6 satellite which was lost in September following a launchpad explosion. The African Broadband service will be launched during the first four months of 2017, thereby enabling Eutelsat to revert to its initial business plan of a revenue contribution of €15 million in FY 2017-18 and €25-30 million in FY 2018-19.

Laurent Grimaldi, Chief Executive Officer of Broadband for Africa, said: *“We are delighted to initiate this relationship with Yahsat and to put our Africa broadband programme back on track. We fully share Yahsat’s conviction in the long-term role satellites will play in wireless connectivity and in the need for high-quality infrastructure to transform Africa’s broadband landscape.”*

Amit Somani, Chief Strategy Officer of Yahsat, said, *“We believe it is important for us to collaborate with our industry peers to drive our common goal of connecting individuals, businesses and governments around the world with affordable and reliable broadband services. We are delighted to have Broadband for Africa as a long-term customer on our satellites, laying yet another cornerstone in our expansion strategy and reinforcing the global trend towards higher efficiency Ka-band solutions.”*

About Broadband for Africa: Set up by Eutelsat in 2015, Broadband for Africa will develop the vast untapped market for consumer and enterprise connectivity and address community networks connected to Wi-Fi hotspots as well as mobile phone backhauling and rural connectivity. The venture has also invested in a standalone high-capacity broadband satellite for launch in 2019 that will boost and complement the services to be supplied through the agreement with Yahsat. Broadband for Africa aims to be the leading player in providing state-of-the-art satellite broadband solutions to its partners. Working hand-in-hand with local African partners Broadband for Africa will help reduce the digital divide by offering high-quality and high-availability broadband solutions for consumers, enterprises and the public sector.

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

About Al Yah Satellite Communications Company PrJSC, “Yahsat”

[Yahsat](#) provides multipurpose satellite solutions (government and commercial) for broadband, broadcast, government, and communications use across the Middle East, Africa, and Europe in addition to Central and South West Asia. Based in Abu Dhabi, UAE, and wholly owned by [Mubadala Development Company](#), the investment vehicle of the Government of Abu Dhabi, Yahsat is the first company in the Middle East and Africa to offer multi-purpose Ka-band satellite services including:

- YahClick – Satellite broadband solutions for Consumers, SMEs and Corporations
- YahService – Managed solutions and government capacity for governments and corporations
- YahLink – IP trunking and backhauling solutions for telecom operators, ISPs and corporate networks
- Yahlive – A joint venture between Yahsat and SES providing broadcasting services to communities across MENA, South West Asia, and Europe

Yahsat's first satellite Y1A was successfully launched in April 2011, and the company's second satellite Y1B was successfully launched in April 2012.

Yahsat has announced the manufacturing of its third satellite, Al Yah 3, planned for launch in early 2017, extending their commercial Ka-band coverage to an additional 20 markets reaching 60% of Africa's population and over 95% of Brazil's population, marking the company's first entry in to Brazil. For more information visit www.yahsat.ae or www.mubadala.ae

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