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Kyrgyz Republic throttles up transition to digital broadcasting with Eutelsat

EUTELSAT 70B satellite uniquely positioned as growth neighbourhood for digital TV in Central Asia

Bishkek, Moscow, Paris, 27 January 2015 - Eutelsat Communications (NYSE Euronext Paris: ETL) announced today at this year's CSTB Expo in Moscow, that it has signed a multi-year agreement with RPO RMTR, the public broadcaster of the Kyrgyz Republic, that will accelerate the country's switch to a fully digital broadcasting environment.

RPO RMTR is using the high-power service area of the EUTELSAT 70B satellite to broadcast a free-to-air platform of national channels to Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) towers and direct to homes beyond terrestrial reception. One in five of the 1.2 million TV homes in the Kyrgyz Republic is already equipped with a dish, with the country's highly mountainous terrain making satellite particularly efficient for achieving 100% penetration of digital TV.

Comprising four TV and three radio channels, the RPO RMTR platform went live in November and was launched commercially this month. The offer is expected to ramp up rapidly in 2015 to 16 TV and eight radio channels, with further services planned for the future.

The Vice Minister of Culture, Information and Tourism of the Kyrgyz Republic, Ainura Temirbekova, stated: *"We are excited about the fruitful cooperation between RPO RMTR and Eutelsat for the successful implementation of digital satellite TV. This project for the broadcasting of the Kyrgyz Republic's public channels via EUTELSAT 70B satellite allows us to cover the entire territory of the country. The population of the Kyrgyz Republic is now able to receive all public TV and radio channels anywhere in our country."*

Bakit Sharshembiev, CEO of RPO RMTR, added: *"Access to EUTELSAT 70B's premium coverage over the Kyrgyz Republic transforms us into a nationwide provider of digital broadcast services. By having a hybrid satellite - DTT network, we will achieve full digital coverage in time for analogue switch off in June this year."*

Michel Azibert, Chief Commercial & Development Officer of Eutelsat, concluded: *"We are delighted to leverage our experience of analogue switch-off to help the Kyrgyz Republic organise a smooth transition to digital, and that RPO RMTR's preference goes to our EUTELSAT 70B satellite. This is a significant opportunity for Central Asia as Eutelsat's 70° East position can take its place as a broadcasting point of reference in the region, with premium reach of the Kyrgyz Republic as well as Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan."*

Official launch ceremony of RPO RMTR TV platform with Vice Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan,
Elvira Sarieva (left) and Eutelsat's David Geiling.

Visit Eutelsat at CSTB 2015 from 27-29

January, at Crocus Expo International Exhibition Centre:
Pavilion 1, hall 2, booth 201 (co-booth RSCC-Eutelsat).

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 35 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 32 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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