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# SpaceX Falcon 9 lofts EUTELSAT 117 West B into space

*Photo credit: SpaceX*

## **New all-electric satellite also hosting Raytheon payload to enhance aviation safety**

**Cape Canaveral, Paris, 15 June 2016** – Eutelsat Communications (NYSE Euronext Paris: ETL) confirms today's successful launch of its EUTELSAT 117 West B satellite. The satellite was ferried into space by a Falcon 9 rocket that took off from SpaceX's Space Launch Complex 40 in Cape Canaveral at 10.29 ET (14.29 UTC) and parked EUTELSAT 117 West B in a supersynchronous orbit after a 30-minute flight. The first telemetry from the new satellite has been confirmed and processed at Boeing's Mission Control Centre in El Segundo, California.

EUTELSAT 117 West B's electric propulsion system will now be prepared for orbit-raising that is scheduled to start on 18 June and last for approximately seven months. The satellite will then undergo in-orbit tests prior to commercial entry into service at 117° West in Q1 2017.

Equipped with 48 Ku-band transponders, EUTELSAT 117 West B's four distinct regional beams will provide premium coverage of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, South America and the Southern Cone. The satellite will strengthen video capacities at 117° West and offer key services to telecom operators and government service providers in Latin America.

EUTELSAT 117 West B also features a payload for Raytheon to enable the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to increase GPS signal accuracy from 10 metres to 1-2 metres, thereby enhancing aviation safety for users in

Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the continental United States including Alaska. The WAAS (Wide Area Augmentation System) payload on EUTELSAT 117 West B is the first to be included on an all-electric satellite.

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## **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 39 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](http://www.eutelsat.com)

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