

HISPASAT signs with the ESA the contract for the development of the Small GEO mission

- **The Spanish company will deal with the supply, launching, and operation of the new satellite Hispasat AG1, which will be launched to the space in 2012.**

HISPASAT has signed with the European Space Agency (ESA), in its headquarters of Paris, the contract for the Small GEO mission, which aims at the development, validation, and launching of an innovative platform for reduced size geostationary satellites with an advanced useful load which is able to meet the increasingly demanding requirements of the satellite communications.

For the Chairperson of HISPASAT, Petra Mateos “the Small GEO mission means an important step to develop advances which allow Europe to have technological realities which consolidate their space leadership”. With the development of the new Hispasat AG1 satellite, the Spanish company places itself ahead of the initiatives promoted by the European Space Agency (ESA) for the development and the commercial exploitation of useful loads of innovative communications which allow to introduce new communication services in the sphere of the Direct to Home television (DTH), the broad band, and the high definition television platforms (HDTV).

Hispasat AG1 features the new generation onboard processing REDSAT useful load, designed, and manufactured by the Spanish industry, based on the previous experience of the Amerhis system, and an active aerial of reconfigurable beams. These systems will allow HISPASAT to use in a more agile and efficient way the power of the satellite, substantially increasing the transmission capacity, which the subsequent reduction of the cost of the communications. The new satellite consolidates the position of the company within the sphere of on board digital regenerative processing and entails another prove of its clear bet on collaboration to achieve significant breakthroughs in the sector of telecommunications.

Besides HISPASAT, the German company OHB-Systems AG, which will carry out the Small GEO platform, and the companies Thales Alenia Space España and EADS CASA Espacio, which will be responsible for the development of the on board digital regenerative processing and of the aerial subsystem, with the reconfigurable orbit aerial and ultralight passive reflectors, will take part in the development of the Small GEO mission.

Satellite Hispasat AG1

Satellite Hispasat AG1 will provide to HISPASAT a modern and competitive communication capacity, both in the traditional sphere of space capacity leasing and as regards technological innovation projects, consolidating the position of HISPASAT as an international benchmark within its sector and placing it at the forefront of the technological development of new satellite communication solutions.

Its 20 transponders in Ku and Ka frequency bands will supply a wide offer of communication services. Together with the participation of Thales Alenia Space España and EADS-CASA Espacio, for the development of the priceless collaboration provided by the CDTI in the development of innovation programmes in the aerospace sphere.

The coverage in Ku band will extend over the Iberian Peninsula, including the Balearic Islands, the Canary Islands, Madeira and Azores, rest of Europe, north of Africa, and America, from Alaska to Tierra de Fuego. Band Ka will have coverage on the Iberian Peninsula, the Balearic Islands, and the Canary Islands.

Madrid, 29th December 2008