

## HISPASAT and Astrium present Europe's first active Ku-band antenna

- **This innovative antenna will enable the Hispasat AG1 satellite to change coverage in orbit to adapt more efficiently to customers' needs.**
- **Hispasat AG1 is the first mission of the Small GEO platform, developed by OHB Systems (Germany) in partnership with the European Space Agency and HISPASAT.**

**Madrid, 17 October 2013** HISPASAT, the Spanish satellite communications operator, today unveiled, along with Astrium España (EADS CASA Espacio), the DRA-ELSA reconfigurable antenna, the largest and most complex such antenna developed to date in Europe. This antenna will be installed in the Hispasat AG1 satellite and boasts four simultaneous beams in the Ku-band with state-of-the-art features, enabling the operator to optimise its service in the dynamic current communications market environment. The presentation ceremony was also attended by the Spanish Industrial Technology Development Centre (CDTI), which is co-financing the AG1 project.

The main advantage of this new antenna is that it enables the operator to adapt to potential changes in the mission after the satellite has been launched such as the incorporation of new customers, a change in orbital position, etc. This means that HISPASAT will enjoy maximum operational flexibility and be able to adapt its services to a host of new and different scenarios.

Thanks to this advanced and flexible antenna, the Hispasat AG1 satellite will have four beams that can be pointed at any Earth location, and it will be possible to modify both pointing and coverage throughout its useful life. This means that HISPASAT can adapt to the precise needs of every customer at any time by configuring the DAR-ELSA antenna from the ground control station. For this purpose a method has also been developed for regulating the antenna which provides the system with complete operational capacity. This antenna is also better insulated than other communications systems and against possible interference.

Hispasat AG1 is the first mission of the Small GEO platform, developed by OHB Systems (Germany) in partnership with the European Space Agency and HISPASAT. It incorporates the innovative REDSAT payload with a regenerative on-board processor (which encompasses the DRA-ELSA project), which will enable HISPASAT to use the satellite's capacity more flexibly and efficiently, significantly increasing transmission capacity with the consequent reduction in the cost of communications.

Hispasat AG1, which will be launched in 2015, will have a lift-off mass of 3.2 tonnes and will carry up to 20 transponders in the Ku-band and up to 3 in the Ka-band, as well as this new active antenna with reconfigurable beams. DRA-ELSA is the first active antenna manufactured in Europe to operate in the commercial market in the Ku-band.

### **About the HISPASAT Group**

HISPASAT Group is made up of companies with a presence in Spain as well as Latin America, where its Brazilian affiliate, HISPAMAR commercializes its services in Latin America. The group is a leader in the broadcasting and distribution of Spanish and Portuguese content, including transmission on important digital Direct-To-Home (DTH) and High Definition Television (HDTV) platforms. HISPASAT is one of the most important companies in the world in its sector by revenue and the main communications bridge between Europe and America.

### **About Astrium**

Astrium is the number one company in Europe for space technologies and the second in the world. It is the only global company that covers the full range of civil and defence space systems, equipment and services.

In 2012, Astrium had a turnover over €5.8 billion and 18,000 employees worldwide.

Its three business units are: Astrium Space Transportation, the European prime contractor for launchers, orbital systems and space exploration; Astrium Satellites, a leading provider of satellite system solutions, including spacecraft, ground segments, payloads and equipments; Astrium Services, the Space services partner for critical missions, providing comprehensive fixed and mobile solutions covering secure and commercial satcoms and networks, and bespoke geo-information services, worldwide.

Astrium is a wholly owned subsidiary of EADS, a global leader in aerospace, defence and related services. In 2012, the Group – comprising Airbus, Astrium, Cassidian and Eurocopter – generated revenues of €56.5 billion and employed a workforce of over 140,000. Press contact:

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