

## The Open Arms takes to the sea with a new communications system provided by HISPASAT and Syntelix

- Both companies will collaborate generously with the NGO Proactiva Open Arms in its work rescuing migrants on the Mediterranean sea.
- The operator will assign special managed capacity through its Hispasat 30W-5 and Hispasat 30W-6 satellites to provide connectivity to two ships belonging to the organisation.
- Syntelix will provide the technological means necessary to provide satellite Internet access and IP calls.

**MADRID, 20 November 2018.** HISPASAT, the Spanish satellite telecommunications operator, together with Syntelix, a satellite communication services provider specialising in the maritime sector, are collaborating in order to provide satellite communications free of charge to the boats of the non-governmental organisation (NGO) Proactiva Open Arms.

The satellite operator will assign managed space capacity so that the boats of the NGO, the Open Arms and the Astral, can have satellite Internet access during the rescue work carried out in the Mediterranean Sea in aid of those people who try to reach Europe to escape the war or the misery they suffer in their countries of origin.

Syntelix will provide the necessary technological means and will take charge of the installation of the equipment, maintenance, operations and customer service. The Open Arms has departed today from Barcelona for a new mission with the new equipment already installed and in operation. Over the next few weeks, the equipment will be installed in the Astral, which is now under review in the port of Denia.

The service will be provided through the Hispasat 30W-5 and Hispasat 30W-6 satellites, located in 30º West, whose coverage over the Mediterranean makes it ideal for this type of solution. In addition to satellite Internet access, the organisation's two ships will also be equipped with an IP telephone service so that they can communicate between the ships and with their headquarters on land.

Oscar Camps, director of Proactiva Open Arms, has valued this collaboration very positively because, he considers, "for Open Arms it is essential to be connected during the rescue missions both to perform the tasks of location and coordination and to be able to transmit what is lived in the sea and put eyes where there is nobody and to denounce the human rights violations that we find in the middle of the sea".

Carlos Espinós, the CEO of HISPASAT, is happy to "be able to contribute our technology to collaborate in an essential humanitarian endeavour - saving the lives of human beings in a desperate situation. For HISPASAT it is important that technology can be useful for people; there's no doubt that in this case it will be essential in order to coordinate the rescue work, and there's nothing more important than that".

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For his part Carlos Derqui, the CEO of Syntelix, stated that "the monitoring and rescue work that Proactiva Open Arms does is extraordinary and admirable. Being able to collaborate in improving its communications systems is vital".

The solution that HISPASAT and Syntelix offer involves an innovative, flexible and adaptable service, which has been created to respond to the connectivity needs in mobility settings, such as the nautical sector. The service provides broadband Internet access, connecting these types of ships and in a wide range of options suited to the users' needs, from basic connection for the crew to the highest quality link to receive IP TV or to connect thousands of passengers on a cruise ship; always tailor-made and on demand.

With this initiative, which forms part of HISPASAT's Corporate Social Responsibility policy, the company strengthens its commitment to the development of people and the community, providing access to communications, collaborating in projects where terrestrial infrastructures are not possible and where the company's activity yields benefits for society.

#### About Proactiva Open Arms

Open Arms is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation whose main mission is to provide maritime rescue for the people who are trying to reach Europe fleeing conflicts, persecution and poverty. The organisation was created based on a maritime rescue and salvage company with extensive experience along the Spanish coasts. It was founded in 2015 in the Aegean Sea and in a little more than 3 years, it has managed to rescue 60,000 people from certain death along two routes, from Turkey to Greece and, since July 2016, along the world's deadliest route which goes from Libya to Italy.

During 2018, Open Arms has taken an additional step in its protective work and has started operating in the migrants' countries of origin to inform them of the dangers of the route to Europe and to try to prevent these people from falling into the hands of organised criminals who systematically violate their rights during their attempts to migrate. Open Arms also offers training and job placement in the private sector in the countries of origin.

With the help of many people who collaborate with donations, the organisation can increase its resources and save more lives every day, in the Mediterranean and also in the migrants' countries of origin. Above all, Open Arms can continue to provide a voice to place the focus where there's no one else to report the systematic human rights violations on land and on the sea.

#### About SYNTELIX

SYNTELIX Avances Tecnológicos, S.L (SYNTELIX) offers expert satellite communication solutions for companies and organisations, providing a unique suite of options in the maritime and temporary vertical segments. SYNTELIX provides corporate services to major companies and non-governmental organisations, and provides satcom consulting, project management and multiple network installation services in very diverse regions. The managerial team behind SYNTELIX is formed by industry professionals with more than 15 years of experience in satellite communication services and IT technologies. <http://www.syntelix.net>

#### About HISPASAT

HISPASAT is comprised of companies that have a presence in Spain as well as in Latin America, where its Brazilian affiliate HISPAMAR is based. HISPASAT is a world leader in content distribution in Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries and its satellite fleet is used by important direct-to-home television (DTH) and high-definition television (HDTV) digital platforms. HISPASAT also provides satellite broadband and connectivity services, which include broadband access, mobility and the backhaul networks, in addition to other added value solutions for governments, companies and telecommunication operators in America, Europe and North Africa. HISPASAT is one of the world's largest companies in its sector in terms of revenue, and the main communications bridge between Europe and the Americas.

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