

## HISPASAT provides free connectivity and remote education by satellite to 15 schools and rural communities in Honduras

- The Minister of Education of Honduras and the Ambassador of Spain have inaugurated this service donated by HISPASAT as part of the aid provided by Spain after the disaster caused by hurricanes Eta and Iota.
- The operator is providing WiFi satellite terminals, satellite capacity and a remote education solution for the next nine months to 15 schools and rural communities located in different departments in the country.
- Following disasters like this, in which thousands of students were left without Internet access, satellite technology is a key tool to contribute to re-establishing communications as it is independent of land-based infrastructure and is not affected by natural disasters.

**MADRID, April 21, 2021.** The Minister of Education of Honduras, Arnaldo Bueso, the Spanish Ambassador in Honduras, Guillermo Kirkpatrick, and HISPASAT's Chief Commercial Officer, Ignacio Sanchis, inaugurated yesterday the connectivity and remote education service donated by the Spanish satellite telecommunications operator of the Red Eléctrica Group to 15 schools and rural communities in the country with a visit to a school in the department of Comayagua. This donation, the result of public-private cooperation, comes from an agreement with the Secretary of Education of Honduras in the framework of humanitarian aid that Spain has earmarked for the Central American country to alleviate the devastation caused by hurricanes Eta and Iota at the end of 2020.

Specifically, HISPASAT has provided all the equipment required to roll out 15 satellite hotspots located in different departments in the country, as well as a remote education solution that allows educational contents to be downloaded and accessed on local servers so that students can use them effectively. This solution provides a WiFi network in each school and also includes a community WiFi hotspot that provides Internet access to the residents of these rural communities. HISPASAT is also care of the installation and maintenance costs for this service, which will last for nine months.

The devastation brought on by last year's hurricanes led to the evacuation of half a million people and left 330,000 people without communications and half the country's students without an Internet connection. In disasters like these, satellite technology is a key tool to speed up re-establishing communications. The use of satellites is also essential for training on tools and digital skills in countries like Honduras, in which rural schools frequently lack Internet access through land-based or mobile networks.

### Commitment to education in Honduras

The Minister of Education, Arnaldo Bueso, explained that the government of Honduras is promoting major initiatives as part of its commitment to quality education. "We are united as a society and we are grateful for the help from all the participants involved: The central government, businesspeople, technical teams, partners, civil society, fathers and mothers, teachers, churches, local governments and many others who, undoubtedly, are committed to the future of thousands of students", he stated.

Furthermore, he showed his appreciation to the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation and to HISPASAT for supporting these initiatives and how students can now have the right to access to quality education, especially certain remote parts of the country where there is a lesser degree of technological infrastructure. “Today we continue to face major challenges, with a raging pandemic and in-person education that is becoming more difficult to maintain every day. We want our students to stay in school and keep studying to achieve their dreams and improve their quality of life”, he explained.

For his part, Ambassador Guillermo Kirkpatrick claimed: “Hurricanes Eta and Iota caused unprecedented damage in a large number of schools in Honduras. We would therefore like to thank HISPASAT for donating this connectivity service aimed at alleviating the effects of this disaster on education for the youngest Hondurans”.

“HISPASAT is fully committed to the role that satellites play in addressing situations like the one in Honduras. But we don’t want this connectivity solution to be used only for re-establishing communications in these 15 schools, we also want it to contribute to effectively bridging the digital divide in education, which is truly an essential service”, added the company’s Chief Commercial Officer, Ignacio Sanchis.

HISPASAT works in collaboration with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) on a variety of initiatives to provide satellite connectivity to schools and rural communities in Latin America and to promote quality education in remote, disadvantaged areas.

#### Impact of this HISPASAT Action on the Sustainable Development Goals:



#### About HISPASAT

HISPASAT is the leading satellite operator in Spain and a driver for innovation in the aerospace sector. The company is the main communication link between Europe and America as a broadband and connectivity service provider in America, Europe and North Africa through its companies in Spain and Latin America, where its Brazilian subsidiary, HISPAMAR, is located. HISPASAT is the leader in broadcasting and distributing multimedia content in Spanish and Portuguese, including broadcasts from major digital Direct to Home (DTH) and High Definition Television (HDTV) platforms. These activities make it one of the top companies in the world by revenue in its sector and it forms part of the Red Eléctrica Group.

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