

Press release

SES PARTNERS WITH ESA TO DEVELOP INNOVATIVE SATELLITE PLATFORM ELECTRA

Luxembourg, 15 October 2013 - SES (NYSE Euronext Paris and Luxembourg Stock Exchange: SESG) announced today a public-private partnership with the European Space Agency (ESA) for the development of an innovative full-electric propulsion satellite platform.

Corresponding contracts were signed today at SES' headquarters in Luxembourg in the presence of ESA Director General Jean-Jacques Dordain, the Luxembourg Minister for Higher Education and Research, Martine Hansen, and the Minister for Communications and Media, Luc Frieden.

The public-private partnership between SES and ESA is part of a programme called ELECTRA which aims at developing an innovative small and medium sized, fully electric platform, manufactured in Europe. SES is the prime contractor to ESA for the first phase of the programme and is working with OHB System AG of Bremen as a subcontractor for the corresponding manufacturing design of the platform. ELECTRA is one of the main European Space activities to which the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg has subscribed to at the ESA Ministerial Conference in Naples in 2012.

The ELECTRA project aims to develop an innovative geostationary satellite platform that utilises electric propulsion instead of conventional chemical propulsion for the transfer into the geostationary orbit as well as on orbit station keeping. The satellite platform can thus take advantage of smaller launch vehicles or dual launch capabilities, while carrying payload capabilities equivalent to current mid-sized satellites in terms of power consumption and number of active transponders.

“ELECTRA shows the commitment of SES to support and drive innovation in the space segment and satellite technology”, said Romain Bausch, President and CEO of SES. “With ESA as an institutional partner and OHB as a technological partner, we forge a strong combination to create a new and commercially competitive satellite platform in Europe. For SES, being able to rely on all-electric satellites, in combination with innovative launch services, is becoming of primary strategic importance in order to control the intensive capital investments which are required to sustain our core business development. All-electric satellites are therefore part of the key Innovation roadmap identified by SES.”

Jean-Jacques Dordain, ESA's Director General, attending the signing of the contract at SES in Luxembourg, noted: “Electra represents three partnerships in one: between SES and OHB, to develop the best solution for SES and the future needs of other satellite operators; between SES and ESA, to offer the best possible validation in orbit of a new technology; and between ESA and DLR to capitalise on previous investments.

These three partnerships is the best way to optimise the use of public and private funds for enhancing the competitiveness of the European sector.”

For further information please contact:

Yves Feltes
Media Relations
Tel: +352 710 725 311
Yves.Feltes@ses.com

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About SES

SES is a world-leading satellite operator with a fleet of 54 geostationary satellites. The company provides satellite communications services to broadcasters, content and internet service providers, mobile and fixed network operators and business and governmental organisations worldwide.

SES stands for long-lasting business relationships, high-quality service and excellence in the broadcasting industry. The culturally diverse regional teams of SES are located around the globe and work closely with customers to meet their specific satellite bandwidth and service requirements.

SES (NYSE Euronext Paris and Luxembourg Stock Exchange: SESG) holds participations in Ciel in Canada and QuetzSat in Mexico, as well as a strategic participation in satellite infrastructure start-up O3b Networks. Further information under: www.ses.com