

Press release

SES PARTNERS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST EBOLA IN GUINEA THROUGH DEPLOYMENT OF MOBILE LABORATORY “B-LiFE”

Luxembourg, 22 December 2014 - SES (NYSE Euronext Paris and Luxembourg Stock Exchange: SESG) announced today its partnership in B-LiFE, a collaboration between the public, private and academic sectors on a national and international level, run by a consortium of Centre de Technologies Moléculaires Appliquées (CTMA) of the Université Catholique de Louvain in Belgium, the Belgian enterprises Aurea Imaging, Eonix and Nazka Mapps, and the European Space Agency, (ESA) as well as SES. B-LiFE aims at bringing rapid disease identification for a fast response to sanitary crises such as the present Ebola epidemic.

For SES, this collaboration complements its extended engagement in Luxembourg's satellite-based rapid response platform emergency.lu (see related announcement: www.emergency.lu), the international telemedicine and e-health platform SATMED (see: www.satmed.lu), and SES's support of the combat of Ebola with the dedicated humanitarian TV channel “Fight Ebola”, which broadcasts on the SES satellite fleet (www.fightebola.tv).

B-LiFE can be deployed rapidly to perform quick diagnostic tests of patients. Once installed in a crisis zone, the B-LiFE laboratory uses genetic analysis techniques to very precisely identify the presence of life-threatening, biological agents that cause the disease. The effectiveness of the response provided by the laboratory depends on the real-time communication provided by satellite. The connectivity is provided via an emergency.lu Rapid deployment kit with an inflatable antenna belonging to the Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs of the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. B-LiFE operates on the emergency.lu and SATMED platform with SES satellite capacity, funded by the Luxembourg government.

With the support of the Belgian emergency team B-Fast, the B-LiFE laboratory has left Belgium for N'zerekore, Guinea on Saturday 20 December at 08.30 am. The support is part of the international effort to help countries where Ebola is spreading. Together with teams from the Belgian Ministry of Defense and from the Civil Protection from the Ministry of Interior, B-FAST will be responsible for the logistics support. The B-LiFE/B-FAST mission will be deployed to support an Ebola treatment center which has been installed in N'Zerekore by the French Non-Government Organisation ALIMA. The EU Copernicus Emergency Management Service has been activated to provide satellite images for the epidemiological data mapping. The European Commission (DG ECHO) and its Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) are also providing their support.

The mission aims at providing and ensuring a rapid identification of Ebola-suspected patients through appropriate diagnostic tests. Identification will be carried out by the means of DNA-based analysis, meaning that any sample will first be inactivated inside a dedicated negative pressure glove box by the operating team, before being processed for rapid diagnosis of the Ebola virus. The operating staff will wear protective equipment and follow strict hygiene measures. The procedure will offer maximum biosafety to the B-LiFE operating staff. B-LiFE will also perform clinical tests to analyse the effects of new therapeutic drugs tested in the ALIMA center. This will contribute to the development of new treatments for the Ebola disease.



“B-LIFE demonstrates the relevance of satellite for medical purposes. After successfully launching the telemedicine platform SATMED for the Luxembourg government and our information channel “Fight Ebola” TV, SES is proud to contribute to B-LIFE and enhance the international engagement for the creation and roll-out of powerful and effective e-medicine orientated applications,” said Gerhard Bethscheider, Managing Director of SES TechCom.

For further information please contact:

Markus Payer
Corporate Communications
Tel. +352 710 725 500
markus.payer@ses.com

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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.