

Press release

SES TO HOST NASA PAYLOAD ON SES-14

RESTON, VA, 13 April 2015 -- Global satellite solutions provider SES Government Solutions (SES GS) announced today that it has been awarded a five-year contract by the University of Colorado to host a NASA funded payload on board SES-14.

The primary purpose of the Global-Scale Observations of the Limb and Disk (GOLD) mission is to revolutionize the understanding of the space environment by filling the critical gap in knowledge of Sun-Earth connections. The hosted payload will transmit data of the Sun's impact on the Earth's thermosphere and ionosphere from Geostationary (GEO) orbit. Both of these layers of the Earth's upper atmosphere are very sensitive to space weather events and space climate, with potential societal impacts. Uncertainties in the thermosphere are a primary source of uncertainty for operating satellites in low Earth orbit. Fluctuations in the ionosphere interfere with signals from communications and global positioning satellites.

Richard Eastes, the Principal Investigator at the University of Central Florida for the GOLD mission, said, "The images that GOLD will take are unprecedented. This mission will be the first to make images of the temperature and composition changes over a hemisphere. It's something that scientists have wanted since the beginning of space exploration."

Pete Hoene, President and CEO of SES GS, noted, "We are proud to host the GOLD payload on our satellite and look forward to enabling the transmission of groundbreaking data to the science team at the University of Central Florida, the University of Colorado, and NASA."

The contract includes satellite construction, launch and two years of on-orbit operations, with options to extend on an annual basis. The satellite has a life expectancy of 15 years. Launching in 2017, SES-14 will replace SES's NSS-806 satellite at 47.5/48 degrees West.

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About SES Government Solutions

SES Government Solutions, a subsidiary of global satellite operator SES, is exclusively focused on meeting the satellite communications needs of the U.S. Government. Leveraging more than four decades of experience in the government SATCOM market, SES Government Solutions offers robust and secure satellite-based communications solutions. Supported by SES's fleet of over 50 satellites offering comprehensive global coverage, SES Government Solutions offers highly reliable fixed and on-the-move capacity. Further information under www.ses-gs.com