



## Press release

# **NASA Selects SES Government Solutions to Support Near-Earth Communications**

*Future NASA missions could rely on SES's multi-orbit expertise and proven non-geostationary orbit (NGSO) innovation*

Reston, Va. 10 May 2022 – SES Government Solutions (SES GS), a wholly-owned subsidiary of SES, in partnership with Planet Labs PBC (Planet), has been awarded a Funded Space Act Agreement from NASA's Communications Services Project (CSP) to support the development and demonstration of near-Earth communication services in support of the agency's future mission needs.

SES GS will partner with Planet to develop a real-time always-on low-latency connectivity solution enabled by SES's geostationary (GEO) and medium earth orbit (MEO) constellations, including [O3b mPOWER](#), to further NASA missions. Planet brings over a decade of experience in designing and manufacturing cutting-edge low-cost Earth observation satellites and radio communication systems.

SES GS has been awarded nearly USD 29 Million through NASA's Funded Space Act Agreement to demonstrate commercial radio frequency GEO C-band and MEO Ka-band relay networks for SATCOM services to spacecraft in low earth orbit. These services include routine missions, contingency operations, launch and ascent, and early operations phase communications.

The solution proposed by SES GS will deliver robust, reliable and cost-effective mission-oriented operations, enabling high-rate and high-capacity two-way communications. Under the agreement, the company will complete technology development and in-space demonstrations by 2025, with NASA intending to seek multiple long-term contracts to acquire services for near-Earth operations by 2030. The adoption of agile and innovative SATCOM service will support NASA in phasing out its proprietary systems, as well as other NASA-operated systems.

"We are excited to showcase our second-generation satellite constellation -- O3b mPOWER -- that will enable high data rates coupled with low-latency data relay communications to and from near-Earth orbit NASA assets," said President and CEO of SES Government Solutions, Brigadier General Pete Hoene, USAF (retired). "Combining the multi-orbit capabilities of SES, the global leader in delivering content and connectivity solutions via satellite, with that of Planet Labs, one of the world's leading commercial imaging companies, will create the world's first high-throughput commercial space relay service, enabling timely and data-driven decisions."

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## **About SES Government Solutions**

SES Government Solutions (SES GS) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of SES, the leader in global content connectivity solutions. SES GS operates under a proxy board allowing them to provide services through contracts with the U.S. Government, including classified work. SES GS 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 GS offers robust and secure end-to-end satellite communications solutions. Further information can be found at [www.ses-gs.com](http://www.ses-gs.com).

## **About SES**

SES has a bold vision to deliver amazing experiences everywhere on earth by distributing the highest quality video content and providing seamless connectivity around the world. As the leader in global content connectivity solutions, SES operates the world's only multi-orbit constellation of satellites with the unique combination of global coverage and high performance, including the commercially-proven, low-latency Medium Earth Orbit O3b system. By leveraging a vast and intelligent, cloud-enabled network, SES is able to deliver high-quality connectivity solutions anywhere on land, at sea or in the air, and is a trusted partner to the world's leading telecommunications companies, mobile network operators, governments, connectivity and cloud service providers, broadcasters, video platform operators and content owners. SES's video network carries 8,400 channels and has an unparalleled reach of 366 million households, delivering managed media services for both linear and non-linear content. The company is listed on Paris and Luxembourg stock exchanges (Ticker: SESG). Further information is available at: [www.ses.com](http://www.ses.com).