

EUTELSAT 8 West B satellite in final stretch of manufacturing

New satellite for Middle East and North Africa broadcast markets to host new advanced features

Dubai, Paris, 9 March 2015 – The EUTELSAT 8 West B satellite of Eutelsat Communications (Euronext Paris: ETL) is in the final stretch of manufacturing and on track for launch by an Ariane 5 rocket in mid-2015. The 5.8 tonne satellite has finished launch environment tests and is now going through a final round of payload performance checks at Thales Alenia Space's factory in Cannes.



Vibration tests (left). Spreading its wings in solar array deployment (right).

EUTELSAT 8 West 8 will be launched to the 7/8° West neighbourhood selected by over 1,000 TV channels to reach into an unmatched audience of 52 million homes. Eutelsat and Nilesat have progressively built a comprehensive broadcast infrastructure at this position, comprising satellites designed for Direct-to-Home reception in a vast footprint stretching from Morocco to the Gulf. Both operators have steadily brought new capacity on line to meet thriving demand for digital channels and the acceleration of High Definition Television. The next phase of expansion at the most popular neighbourhood in the Middle East and North Africa comes with EUTELSAT 8 West B.

In addition to delivering increased Ku-band capacity for the MENA region and a pan-African payload in C-band, EUTELSAT 8 West B will host a new generation of advanced functions that will raise the bar of performance, flexibility and signal security. The new functions are focused on delivering three main benefits:

- Mitigating the effects of interference by increasing control over uplink frequencies to a satellite;
- Increasing the number of active channels by optimising a satellite payload's use of the electrical power generated by its solar panels;
- Expanding options for repositioning satellites with frequency agile command receivers.

Mitigating interference

This function involves embarking new-generation frequency converters behind the satellite's receive antennas. This will put Eutelsat in the unique position to be able to change the frequency of an uplink signal without any impact on the downlink frequency received by user terminals, marking a major breakthrough in the bid for continuity of service for broadcast signals jammed by rogue uplink signals.

Optimising distribution of electrical power

This technology involves embarking a new generation of equipment in the payload's high power amplification system so that the electrical power used by a channel can be set according to its actual requirement at a given frequency. As the number of channels that can be operated simultaneously is directly linked to the amount of energy produced by solar panels, this innovation brings with it the potential to increase active channels.

More flexible fleet deployment options

This innovation uses a new generation of command receivers that can be set to multiple options, giving enhanced operational flexibility.

More pictures available for download on our [Flickr page](#)

Watch the video of EUTELSAT 8 West B solar array testing on our [Youtube channel](#).

Meet Eutelsat at Cabsat Dubai, Dubai World Trade Centre, 10-12 March:

Stand: Hall 7, Stand n°A7-10

About Eutelsat Communications

Established in 1977, Eutelsat Communications (Euronext Paris: ETL, ISIN code: FR0010221234) is one of the world's leading and most experienced operators of communications satellites. The company provides capacity on 34 satellites to clients that include broadcasters and broadcasting associations, pay-TV operators, video, data and Internet service providers, enterprises and government agencies. Eutelsat's satellites provide ubiquitous coverage of Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Americas, enabling video, data, broadband and

government communications to be established irrespective of a user's location. Headquartered in Paris, with offices and teleports around the globe, Eutelsat represents a workforce of 1,000 men and women from 32 countries who are experts in their fields and work with clients to deliver the highest quality of service.

For more about Eutelsat please visit www.eutelsat.com

■ **Press**

Vanessa O'Connor
Marie-Sophie Ecuier

Tel: + 33 1 53 98 37 91
Tel: + 33 1 53 98 37 91

voconnor@eutelsat.com
mecuer@eutelsat.com

■ **Investors and analysts**

Joanna Darlington
Cédric Pugni

Tel. : +33 1 53 98 35 30
Tel. : +33 1 53 98 35 30

jdarlington@eutelsat.com
cpugni@eutelsat.com