

## PRESS RELEASE

### **ASTRA 3B SATELLITE SCHEDULED FOR LAUNCH ON 21 MAY 2010**

#### **New satellite at 23.5 degrees East to deliver services to Europe and the Middle East**

Luxembourg 20 May 2010 – SES ASTRA, an SES company (Euronext Paris and Luxembourg Stock Exchange: SESG), announced today that the launch of its new satellite ASTRA 3B has now been scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> May 2010. The satellite will be launched into space from the Guiana Space Centre in French Guiana onboard an Ariane 5 ECA rocket between 19:01 and 19:44 pm local time (22<sup>nd</sup> May, 00:01 and 00:44 am Central European Summer Time). The launch had been postponed in order to replace a defective component in the launch vehicle's pressurization system.

ASTRA 3B was built by EADS Astrium in Toulouse using a Eurostar E3000 platform. It offers 60 Ku and four Ka-band transponders (after the first five years 56 Ku- and four Ka-band transponders) and will be located at 23.5 degrees East. It will deliver Direct-to-Home (DTH) broadcast services to the Benelux and Eastern Europe, and serve public and private satellite communication networks across Europe and the Middle East.

ASTRA 3B will allow SES ASTRA to extend its geographical coverage and its service, and offer DTH TV reception from Spain to the Black Sea. It will also help SES ASTRA to further optimize the spectrum use at 23.5 degrees East. ASTRA 3B will join ASTRA 3A and enable SES ASTRA to release its satellites ASTRA 1E and ASTRA 1G for other missions. ASTRA 1E and ASTRA 1G are currently positioned at 23.5 degrees East.

The video broadcast of the launch is available via ASTRA's orbital position 23.5 degrees East, channel 3.224, downlink frequency 12168.00 Mhz, vertical polarisation, symbol rate 27.50 MSym/s, FEC 3/4, service ID 5250, service name Astra 3B Launch or via [www.arianespace.com](http://www.arianespace.com).

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#### **About SES ASTRA**

[www.ses-astra.com](http://www.ses-astra.com)

SES ASTRA is the leading Direct-to-Home (DTH) satellite system in Europe. The satellite fleet currently comprises 15 satellites. The ASTRA satellite system delivers services to more than 125 million DTH and cable households and transmits more than 2,500 analogue and digital television and radio channels. SES ASTRA also provides satellite-based multimedia, internet and telecommunication services to enterprises, governments and their agencies. With more than 120 High Definition (HD) channels on its main orbital positions, ASTRA represents the most important HDTV platform for Europe's leading broadcasters. The prime orbital positions for ASTRA are 19.2° East, 28.2° East, 23.5° East, 5° East and 31.5° East.

#### **About SES**

SES (Euronext Paris and Luxembourg Stock Exchange: SESG) wholly owns the market-leading satellite operators SES ASTRA and SES WORLD SKIES, and participations in Ciel in Canada, QuetzSat in Mexico as well as a strategic participation in satellite infrastructure start-up O3b Networks. SES provides outstanding satellite communications solutions via a global fleet of 43 satellites in 26 orbital locations. For further information: [www.ses.com](http://www.ses.com).