

PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN COMMISSION SELECTS SES ASTRA FOR NAVIGATION SERVICE EGNOS

SES strengthens position in institutional and governmental markets as ideal partner for hosted payloads

Luxembourg / Brussels, 16 March 2009 – SES ASTRA, an SES company (Euronext Paris and Luxembourg Stock Exchange: SESG), announced today that it has been selected by the European Commission (EC) to provide services to the European navigation service EGNOS (European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service). EGNOS is managed by the EC on behalf of the European Union (EU).

Under the terms of the contract, SES ASTRA will supply the EU with a tailor-made payload as well as the related necessary ground infrastructure. The payload will operate in L-band and be located on SES ASTRA's new SIRIUS 5 satellite.

SIRIUS 5, procured by SES Satellite Leasing Limited in the Isle of Man, is scheduled for launch in the second half of 2011 and is currently under construction by Space Systems/Loral. It will be positioned at SES SIRIUS' prime orbital position 5 degrees East. SES ASTRA is planning to start operating the EGNOS payload by year-end 2011.

EGNOS supplements the primary GPS - and in the future also the GLONASS and GALILEO - navigation systems by reporting and improving the reliability and accuracy of the signals. It will also provide European navigation services ahead of the deployment of GALILEO. The EGNOS service is available over Europe and northern Africa and will be fully compatible with GALILEO.

Ferdinand Kayser, President and CEO of SES ASTRA, said: "We are very proud to have been chosen by the EC to contribute to this important satellite navigation service which will play an important role in the development and realisation of the GALILEO system. The decision shows that the commercial satellites of SES ASTRA can provide great value to governments and institutions that are looking for capacity for their satellite based projects such as EGNOS."

The decision by the European Commission follows a contract between AMERICOM Government Services, an affiliate of SES, and the U.S. Government to host an experimental sensor on board of a commercial spacecraft, a program known as the Commercially Hosted Infrared Payload (CHIRP) Flight Demonstration Program, which is scheduled for launch later next year.

"These recent agreements show that SES operates very successfully in the attractive and growing government and institutional market," said Romain Bausch, President and CEO of SES. "Our strong position as a leading satellite operator and as a major driver of the satellite industry makes us a highly reliable and flexible partner for institutional customers and governments. Our significant long-term satellite fleet investment programs, and our long-standing world class expertise in commercial satellite operations, benefit institutional customers and offer various opportunities for hosted payloads in the years to come."

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About SES ASTRA

www.ses-astra.com

SES ASTRA is the leading Direct-to-Home (DTH) satellite system in Europe. The satellite fleet currently comprises 14 ASTRA and two SIRIUS satellites. The combined satellite system delivers services to more than 117 million DTH and cable households and transmits nearly 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 nearly 70 High Definition (HD) channels on its main orbital positions, ASTRA and SIRIUS represent the most important HDTV platform for Europe's leading broadcasters. The prime orbital positions for ASTRA and SIRIUS are 19.2° East, 28.2° East, 23.5° East, 5° East and 31.5° East.

SES ASTRA is an SES company (Euronext Paris and Luxembourg Stock Exchange: SESG). SES owns three market-leading satellite operators, SES ASTRA in Europe, SES AMERICOM in North America, and SES NEW SKIES which provides global coverage and connectivity. The company owns 90 percent of SES SIRIUS in Europe, as well as strategic participations in Ciel in Canada and QuetzSat in Mexico. SES provides outstanding satellite communications solutions via a fleet of 40 satellites in 26 orbital positions around the globe. Additional information on SES is available at: www.ses.com