

## **Airbus Defence and Space expands its Skynet channel partner network with three major military communication providers**

- **With these new partnerships, Inmarsat Government, Hughes Network Systems, and SpeedCast are able to offer Skynet 5 military satellite communication services to their customer base**

Airbus Defence and Space is continuing to work with service providers to develop new partnerships to deliver highly resilient Skynet military satellite communication services notably to the Asia Pacific region, following the move of its Skynet 5A satellite from 6° East to 95° East to provide global X-band and UHF coverage in this region.

Airbus Defence and Space has recently signed a further three partners to its channel partner programme for Skynet services. Hughes Network Systems (Hughes), Inmarsat Government and SpeedCast will be offering Skynet services as part of their already extensive and proven portfolio, to Australian, New Zealand and US forces operating across the globe.

Inmarsat Government will include Skynet services as part of their portfolio offer to US government customers. Hughes will use the partnership offering easily deployable services for the U.S. government involved in tactical missions, primarily using the XEBRA service, which is a solution using the Hughes HM300 lightweight X-band satellite terminal and Airbus Defence and Space's Skynet capacity. SpeedCast will be offering the tactical secure communications services to the Australian and New Zealand government. In addition, Airbus Defence and Space has recently appointed SpeedCast to manage a new anchor station facility for the Skynet 5A military satellite, which is based at SpeedCast's existing teleport in Adelaide, Australia.

Richard Franklin, Head of Secure Communications at Airbus Defence and Space, said: "These new partnerships will enable Hughes, Inmarsat Government and Speedcast to offer Skynet services to their already strong existing customer base; the services will primarily be using the newly relocated Skynet 5A satellite and enable users to operate in both the US and Asia regions, and augment and compliment their existing services."

Airbus Defence and Space completed the move of the Skynet 5A to 95° East over the Asia Pacific region in September 2015. The relocation was initiated to extend the Skynet constellation's coverage and services from 178 West to 163 East, including the Indian Ocean and Western Pacific region. The Skynet network now offers global military coverage, expanding core service reach.

Airbus Defence and Space owns and operates the hardened Skynet X-band satellite constellation of eight satellites and the ground network to provide all Beyond Line of Sight (BLOS) communications to the UK Ministry of Defence. The contract also allows other NATO and allied governments such as members of the five-eyes community (besides UK, the USA, Australia, New Zealand and Canada) to use the Skynet system to augment their existing services.

### **Airbus Defence and Space**

Airbus Defence and Space, a division of Airbus Group, is Europe's number one defence and space enterprise and the second largest space business worldwide. Its activities include space, military aircraft and related systems and services. It employs more than 38,000 people and in 2015 generated revenues of over 13 billion Euros.

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