

Airbus to build BADR-8 satellite for Arabsat, with optical communications payload TELEO

New multi-mission satellite to deliver broadcast, broadband and telecommunications services over Europe, Middle East, Africa and central Asia

TELEO payload for new generation optical communications Eighth Eurostar satellite for Arabsat and first Eurostar Neo

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Riyadh, 18 August 2020 – Airbus has been contracted by Arabsat, one of the world's top satellite operators, to build BADR-8, their new generation telecommunications satellite. BADR-8 will replace and increase Arabsat's capacity and augment its core business at the BADR hotspot 26°E.

The BADR-8 satellite will be based on the state-of-the-art Airbus Eurostar Neo electric orbit raising platform giving access to a wide range of launchers.

BADR-8 will also include the innovative Airbus developed TELEO optical communications payload demonstrator. This payload will enable very high capacity analogue optical feeder link communications, as part of the development by Airbus of a new generation of optical communications technology in space to be integrated in its future commercial products, which is highly robust against jamming.

Jean-Marc Nasr, Head of Space Systems, said: "This important contract with our long-standing customer Arabsat has a special significance for Airbus Defence and Space. It is the first seventh-generation Arabsat satellite and the first Eurostar Neo satellite we are building for Arabsat after six previous Eurostar satellites. BADR-8 incorporates the best of our expertise and technologies, including a very innovative optical communications hosted payload. This further strengthens our continuing strategic partnership with the Arab Satellite Communications Organisation, which has been connecting people by satellite across the Middle East and the world for more than 40 years."

Khalid Balkheyour, President and CEO of Arabsat said "We are delighted to sign this contract with our long term partner Airbus. It marks another milestone in our objectives to provide customers with premium satellite technology with the highest level of performance, and to expand reliability and service security. BADR-8 will be joining our Badr-network at Arabsat 26°E hotspot, expanding our service over EMEA region."

The satellite is scheduled for launch in 2023 and its electric propulsion system will enable it to reach geostationary orbit in four to five months, depending on the type of launcher used. It

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has been designed to remain in service in orbit for more than 15 years. The satellite will have a launch mass of around 4.5 tonnes and power of 17 kW.

This new contract reinforces Airbus Defence and Space's position as the world's number one in electric propulsion satellites, with three full electric satellites operational in orbit and 15 additional full electric high-capacity telecommunications satellites under construction.

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About Airbus

Airbus is a global leader in aeronautics, space and related services. In 2019, it generated revenues of € 70 billion and employed a workforce of around 135,000. Airbus offers the most comprehensive range of passenger airliners. Airbus is also a European leader providing tanker, combat, transport and mission aircraft, as well as one of the world's leading space companies. In helicopters, Airbus provides the most efficient civil and military rotorcraft solutions worldwide.

Newsroom

Contacts for the media**Ralph HEINRICH**

Airbus Defence and Space
+49 (0)171 30 49 751
ralph.heinrich@airbus.com

Jeremy CLOSE

Airbus Defence and Space
+44 776 653 6572
jeremy.close@airbus.com

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