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The latest in Telecom, ICT and SatCom sectors of the Middle East, Asia and Africa

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Building the Next Generation of Satellite Networks

David Gelerman, President and CEO, SpaceBridge

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Explore the six moves here.



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Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the October 2026 edition of Teletimes International, with a special focus on the rapidly evolving satellite and connectivity industry.

Our cover story features David Gelerman, President and CEO of SpaceBridge, discussing the next generation of satellite networks and the growing importance of flexibility, resilience and efficiency. This edition also brings perspectives from Arabsat, Space42, Eutelsat, Intersputnik and ST Engineering iDirect, exploring 5G NTN, multi-orbit connectivity, AI and the technologies reshaping the global satellite ecosystem.

Beyond satellite, we look at the wider transformation taking place across telecommunications and enterprise technology, from the emerging agentic AI economy and digital identity to cybersecurity, cloud infrastructure and next-generation networks. Together, these developments highlight an industry where satellite, terrestrial networks and intelligent technologies are becoming increasingly interconnected.

As the industry gathers in Dubai, we are delighted to support SatExpo Middle East as a Media Partner. We warmly invite our readers, partners and industry friends to visit the Teletimes team at Stand A66, Hall S17 to meet us and discuss the trends and opportunities shaping our industry.

We look forward to seeing you in Dubai and hope you enjoy this edition.

Khalid Athar
Chief Editor

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Arabsat at Evolving for the Next Era of Satellite Connectivity

Dr. Badr Alsuwaidan, CEO of Arabsat Exclusive Interview with Teletimes

Founded in 1976 as an initiative of 21 Arab countries, Arabsat has developed into one of the region's leading satellite communications organizations. Today, its services span broadcasting, telecommunications, broadband, advanced data networks and satellite ecosystem services, reaching customers across the Middle East, Africa, Europe and Central Asia. Arabsat says its services reach tens of millions of households in more than 100 countries.

As Arabsat approaches its 50th anniversary, we spoke with the company about its evolution over five decades, the changing satellite communications landscape, the emergence of LEO and 5G, and the growing role of artificial intelligence.

Q1 As Arabsat approaches its 50th anniversary, which achievements are you particularly proud of, and what does this milestone mean for the organization?

Badr Alsuwaidan: Arabsat started as an initiative of the Arab League and its leaders to provide Arab countries and the wider region with satellite, telecommunications and broadcasting services. That was the vision they had, and Arabsat has successfully worked towards achieving it over the past five decades.

During that time, Arabsat managed to scale and diversify its services through different partnerships and by providing the latest satellite technologies. At one point, we reached 10 satellites in the region, providing a constellation that offered different frequencies and services, from HTS to broadcasting and BSS services.

Arabsat has helped the region advance in space and telecommunications while supporting countries in scaling their infrastructure. We continue to play that role through different technologies and approaches, while keeping pace with and anticipating emerging technology requirements. Arabsat is working hard to meet those needs and provide the region with the latest technologies.

Q2 How has Arabsat evolved over the past five decades, particularly as the satellite market itself has changed?

BA: Arabsat has provided private networks for countries as well as television broadcasting services, and we have seen and supported the expansion of satellite media over the past two decades.

Today, Arabsat is also moving into HTS, providing high-throughput technology to individual countries. We have introduced Ka-band services in markets including Sudan and Libya, while also providing a wide range of services across the GCC, including Saudi Arabia and other GCC countries.

This has helped not only Arabsat but also other organizations and local companies to scale. One example is OmanSat. We work closely with local companies and telecommunications operators to improve the use and benefits of satellite technology within individual countries and integrate it with their telecommunications infrastructure, serving both defense requirements and commercial services.

Q3 LEO constellations, multi-orbit services and 5G NTN are reshaping satellite communications. How is Arabsat responding to these developments?

BA: Arabsat is already providing a range of services supporting 5G and integrated connectivity. LEO represents a new market, and Arabsat is working with some LEO operators, providing these capabilities as part of integrated solutions based on customer requirements.

LEO is a new technology that brings advantages and new services, but it also comes with challenges and limitations. Regulations across the region are still adapting to LEO. Arabsat therefore continues to provide solutions that fit the regulatory environment within the region while meeting the requirements that Arab countries expect from us.

Q4 Who are Arabsat's main telecommunications partners for 5G-related services?

BA: We work with all the major telecommunications operators in the region. In Saudi Arabia, for example, we work with all three operators: stc, Mobily and Zain. In Sudan, we work with Sudatel, and in Libya with LTT.

These relationships form part of the services Arabsat provides to telecommunications operators, many of which are part of our wider network and partnership ecosystem.

Q5 Looking ahead to the next decade, what are Arabsat's main priorities, and how do you see the satellite market evolving?

BA: The satellite market is expanding to include different layers of customers, including enterprises and new customers that are increasingly looking for satellite services.

Arabsat is adapting by moving beyond simply providing capacity or individual services. We are increasingly providing solutions and tailored services so that our customers do not necessarily have to build and invest in their own ground infrastructure and private networks.

At Arabsat, we are providing more managed services and solutions tailored to the needs of our clients and individual countries. Requirements vary considerably from one country to another.

Our region is MENA, and Arabsat is mandated through its ownership by Arab League countries. We therefore provide solutions that meet the requirements and needs of each country, taking into consideration its existing infrastructure as well as the

support and ecosystem available for us to work with.

Q6 How is AI affecting Arabsat's business, and how are you applying it across your operations and services?

BA: Telecommunications, IT and other services are becoming increasingly integrated. We are therefore seeing integrated solutions that combine telecommunications, IT and AI. AI provides tools that can help infrastructure and enable us to get more from the solutions and networks we operate.

Like any new technology, AI comes with significant advantages, although there is also some hesitation among certain customers regarding its use. We see considerable potential in using AI to help us maximize the value of our services and provide better solutions.

AI can help make solutions more integrated and dynamic by understanding changing requirements and enabling networks to respond accordingly. We are already investing in the technology to understand, first, how we can use AI to derive greater value from our own assets and, secondly, how our customers can benefit from the technology we provide.

This includes looking at how bandwidth and resources can be managed dynamically across our infrastructure and our clients' resources to maximize the benefits of the overall system. Ultimately, this can lead to better services and reduced costs for the customer. ■



The Agentic Economy Will Need More Than Intelligence. It Will Need Trust

A conversation with **Choong Zhe Wong**, the Chief AI Officer of Zetrix on Personal AI, digital identity and the emerging agent-to-agent economy

Teletimes: Personal AI agents have suddenly become a major technology conversation. What has changed?

CZ Wong: We are crossing an important threshold.

For several years, AI was principally something people consulted. You asked a question, generated content or requested advice.

Personal AI agents introduce something fundamentally different: delegation.

An agent can potentially search, communicate, negotiate, book, purchase or execute a workflow on your behalf. The moment AI begins to act rather than simply advise, questions of trust become much more important.

Who does this agent represent? What authority has it been given? What is it permitted to do? How does another person or business verify that authority?

The technology industry has made tremendous progress on intelligence. The next challenge is making that intelligence trustworthy enough to participate in real economic activity.

TT: Meta's Muse has generated considerable attention. Do you see Avatar as a competitor to Muse?

Wong: Muse is useful because it is helping the broader market understand what Personal AI can become.

There will certainly be areas where the capabilities overlap. But we approach the market from a different direction.

Much of the Personal AI conversation begins with an agent working for an individual: help me search, help me buy, help me organize my life.

We believe the other side of the transaction is equally important.

What happens when a consumer's AI agent arrives at a restaurant, retailer, bank or enterprise?



Who represents the business?

Avatar is designed so that individuals, creators and businesses can have digital representatives of their own.

So I would not reduce the future to Avatar versus Muse.

The more interesting future is your agent speaking with my agent.

TT: What does that change economically?

Wong: Potentially quite a lot.

Think about a small restaurant.

Today it may depend upon marketplaces, applications, websites, messaging platforms and people answering phones.

Imagine instead that the restaurant has its own AI representative. It can answer questions, handle reservations and orders and interact with customers through familiar channels.

Now imagine that the customer also has an agent.

The customer's agent asks for a reservation. The restaurant's agent responds. Eventually, agents could transact with one another within defined permissions.

That starts to create an agentic economy.

It also changes who keeps the money. Today, when a customer orders through a food-delivery platform, the restaurant can give up as much as 30% of that order in commission. If the customer orders directly through the restaurant's own Avatar, the transaction stays between the customer and the restaurant, and so does that margin. The same applies to e-commerce businesses selling through marketplaces. When businesses and workers handle their own transactions, more of the value stays with the people doing the work.

And this is not limited to restaurants. The same principle can extend from SMEs to

enterprises and from customer service to procurement and other business workflows. Avatar's current use-case architecture already anticipates SME workflows, enterprise-system integration and future agent-to-agent purchasing.

TT: Why is digital identity so central to your proposition?

Wong: Because intelligence without identity creates a trust problem.

Suppose an AI agent contacts your company and says, "I represent John and I am authorized to purchase this service."

Why should you believe it?

Or an agent tells a consumer, "I represent this company."

How does the consumer know it is genuine?

As AI agents acquire greater authority, simply knowing that something is an AI agent will not be sufficient.

We need ways of establishing whom an agent represents, what authority it possesses, the limits of that authority, and whether that authority remains valid.

This is where verified digital identity becomes extremely important.

Avatar's proposition incorporates verifiable digital identity rather than treating identity as an afterthought.

TT: Are you effectively proposing a digital passport for AI agents?

Wong: It is a useful analogy, provided we do not interpret it as requiring everyone to reveal everything about themselves.

Different transactions require different levels of trust.

Asking a restaurant whether a table is available may require very little identity.

Requesting a refund requires more.

Authorizing a significant payment or signing a business transaction requires considerably more.

The principle should therefore be proportionate trust.

The agent should be able to demonstrate what is necessary for the transaction without unnecessarily exposing the person or organization behind it.

The broader industry will have to develop interoperable standards around identity, permissions, auditability and revocation. We do not suggest that one company can solve that alone.

TT: Where do telecommunications operators fit into this future?

Wong: This is where I believe there is a major strategic opportunity.

Telecommunications operators already maintain trusted relationships with billions of subscribers and authenticate connections at enormous scale.

They possess capabilities around devices, numbers, SIMs, networks and subscriber relationships that could become valuable components of an agentic trust environment.

This does not mean that a SIM card by itself becomes someone's complete digital identity. It means telecom network evidence can become one important component of a broader trust architecture. That distinction is important.

The important question for operators is therefore whether they simply carry the traffic generated by Personal AI or whether they participate in establishing the trust that allows agents to transact.

We believe the second opportunity is considerably more interesting.

TT: So you see Avatar as an opportunity for telecom operators rather than simply another AI application?



Wong: Absolutely.

Operators could potentially participate at several levels: distribution, subscriber verification, enterprise services, trusted credentials, SME enablement and eventually agent-to-agent ecosystems.

There is also an important strategic consideration.

The AI economy should not necessarily force every market, enterprise or operator into a single AI model.

Avatar is designed around the possibility of using different open-weight and frontier models rather than being intrinsically limited to one model ecosystem.

That can become particularly relevant for enterprises and markets with specific requirements around data, governance and technology choice.

TT: Is everything you describe already available in Avatar today?

Wong: No, and it is important to be precise

about that.

Avatar already provides the foundation of our identity-led Personal AI proposition and capabilities for individuals, creators and businesses.

Some elements of the larger vision are still being developed.

In particular, our full agent-to-agent identity and payment protocol is on the roadmap, as is our edge capability for sensitive personal data.

We should distinguish between what the product can do today and the architecture we believe the market is moving toward.

The opportunity is significant precisely because much of this ecosystem is still being defined.

TT: Where do you believe Personal AI leads?

Wong: Toward a world in which people, companies and institutions have digital representatives capable of interacting with

one another.

Today we think about:

• Human → AI

Then:

• Human → AI → Business

But we should prepare for:

• Personal AI ↔ Business AI

and why not:

• AI ↔ AI

At that point, identity, authority, permissions, payments, auditability and accountability become infrastructure.

That is the market we are preparing Avatar for.

TT: If you had to describe Avatar in one sentence, what would you say?

Wong: Avatar is a Personal AI platform designed for a world in which trusted digital agents represent people and businesses and transact with one another.

TT: And what is the larger ambition for Zetrix?

Wong: We want to contribute to the trust architecture of the Agentic Economy.

The first era of AI was largely about intelligence: what machines could understand and generate.

As AI becomes capable of acting, the next questions concern identity, authority and trust.

Before an AI agent can participate meaningfully in the economy, someone eventually has to be able to answer:

“Who are you representing, and what are you authorized to do?”

We believe that question will become fundamental. ■



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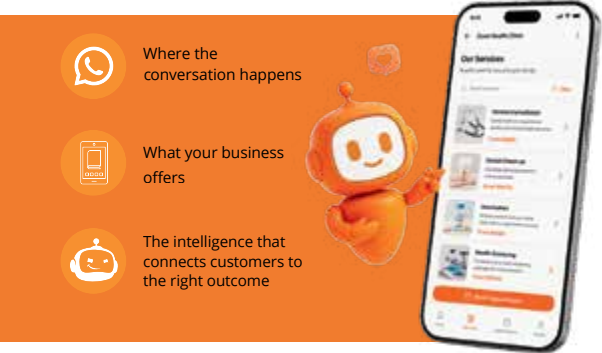
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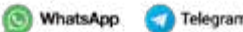
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Building the Next Generation of Satellite Networks

SpaceBridge President and CEO, David Gelerman on Flexibility, Resilience and Growth

Interview: Khalid Athar

Khalid Athar: The SatCom market has evolved significantly in recent years, with new constellations, multi-orbit services and closer integration with terrestrial networks. How do you see the market today, and which trends do you expect to have the greatest impact on the industry over the next three years?

David Gelerman: We are entering a period in which satellite communications must deliver greater flexibility, stronger resilience and better economics simultaneously. New constellations have expanded customer expectations and brought greater visibility to our industry. They have also challenged established operators and technology providers to innovate faster and demonstrate the value they deliver.

I see a market with considerable opportunity, but one that increasingly rewards differentiation. Customers are looking closely at the quality, availability and economics of the complete service. For government and enterprise users in particular, the discussion extends well beyond headline download speeds to include committed capacity, security, operational control and long-term continuity.

Over the next three years, I expect three developments to have the greatest impact.

First, the integration of GEO, MEO and LEO with terrestrial connectivity will become increasingly important. Each orbit brings different strengths, and different applications

have different requirements for latency, coverage, capacity and availability. The most effective architectures will match the communications path to the application and provide alternatives when conditions change. GEO will continue to play an important role, particularly where broad coverage, predictable capacity and sovereign network operation are priorities.

Second, the ground segment will become an even greater source of competitive advantage. An operator's economics depend heavily on how effectively the ground

questions are fundamental.

Automation will support all three developments. As networks become more complex, operators will need more effective tools to manage resources and maintain service quality. Our view is that automation must produce measurable benefits while preserving clear operational control. At SpaceBridge, these practical requirements guide our technology strategy.

KA: ESTELLA has now been in the market for more than two years. How has customer

"We are entering a period in which satellite communications must deliver greater flexibility, stronger resilience and better economics simultaneously."

network uses the available satellite resources. Bandwidth allocation, waveform selection, traffic management and adaptation to changing conditions all influence the cost of delivering a dependable service. Improvements in these areas can increase the value of existing satellite assets.

Third, sovereignty and resilience will carry greater weight in purchasing decisions. Customers want to understand who controls their network, where it is managed, how their information is protected and what happens if infrastructure becomes unavailable. For defence and critical infrastructure, these

adoption progressed, what feedback are you receiving from deployments, and how is that experience shaping the platform's next phase of development?

DG: ESTELLA platform sales are gaining momentum, with successful deployments and strong customer satisfaction accelerating adoption across regions and applications and expanding its commercial footprint. Customers in the Middle East and Latin America have already deployed multiple hubs and continue to expand their networks, a clear endorsement of ESTELLA's operational performance and commercial value. Their

continued investment demonstrates the confidence the platform earns in the field and its ability to support long-term customer growth.

We have also begun commercial deployments of UniHUB in Brazil and Chile and received new orders for fully redundant ESTELLA hub systems from customers in the Middle East, Europe, Asia and Africa. Together, these developments demonstrate the relevance of the product family across different network sizes, business models and operational requirements.

A central theme in customer discussions is the need to combine performance with operational simplicity and affordable growth. Customers want to support demanding applications, use satellite bandwidth competitively and efficiently, and expand their networks while preserving their investment in the underlying infrastructure. They also need the flexibility to accommodate changing traffic patterns without redesigning the network each time a site's requirements evolve.

"The ground segment will become an even greater source of competitive advantage."

The ESTELLA platform addresses these needs through an adaptive architecture. WaveSwitch™, for example, allows terminals to transition dynamically and hitless (no errors or packet loss) between shared TDMA resources and dedicated continuous carriers as traffic requirements change. This enables the same network to serve intermittent traffic and sustained, high-throughput applications efficiently. Dynamic resource assignment gives operators additional flexibility to place capacity where it is needed.

Deployment experience is helping us refine installation tools, configuration, built-in diagnostics suits of tools and network





resilient architectures, flexible capacity allocation and close integration between satellite and terrestrial networks.

Across Africa, we see substantial opportunity in extending mobile coverage and connecting businesses, public services and communities beyond the practical reach of terrestrial infrastructure. Satellite can also provide valuable backup connectivity where terrestrial routes are vulnerable to disruption.

Another important opportunity is receive-only content distribution using the new DVB-NIP standard, known as DVB Native IP. This approach enables the efficient satellite delivery of IP-based content to widely dispersed receiving locations. Educational materials, training programmes, television and video, software updates and public information can be distributed to many sites simultaneously, without requiring a separate satellite transmission for each recipient.

For Africa, this offers a compelling model for reaching schools, community centres, businesses and remote settlements. Content can be received at a local distribution point, stored where appropriate and made available to users over Wi-Fi or a local network. The satellite receiving terminal does not require an RF transmit chain for this one-way service, helping reduce equipment complexity, power requirements and deployment costs.

The economic advantage is especially attractive when many locations need the same content. A common satellite transmission can serve receiving sites throughout the coverage area, allowing the distribution cost per site to decrease as adoption grows. Where interactive services are required, a complementary return connection can be provided through an available terrestrial or satellite network. We see DVB-NIP as a valuable opportunity to complement broadband connectivity with efficient, large-scale content delivery.

Mining, energy, agriculture and transportation offer further opportunities. A remote operation may need business systems, monitoring, voice, video and staff connectivity on the same network.

These applications have different traffic characteristics and priorities, making efficient resource management particularly valuable.

The challenge across all these applications is to make services commercially sustainable. Equipment cost is only one part of the equation. Satellite capacity, power, installation, maintenance, technical support and future expansion all contribute to the total cost of ownership. An installation that is inexpensive initially can become costly if it uses bandwidth inefficiently or requires frequent intervention.

SpaceBridge's opportunity is to improve that overall equation through greater spectral efficiency, adaptive bandwidth allocation, compact infrastructure and distribution architectures suited to the application. Regional partnerships, local installation capability, training and responsive support are equally important. Our objective is to help operators build networks and services that remain competitive as their markets develop. Scalable deployment also allows investment to follow demand.

Regional partnerships are essential to this approach. Local knowledge, installation capability, training and responsive support help turn a sound technical design into a successful long-term service. We want to give operators the tools and support to build networks that remain competitive as their markets develop.

KA: Multi-orbit networks, 5G NTN and software-defined infrastructure are increasingly reshaping SatCom. How is SpaceBridge positioning itself within this evolving ecosystem?

DG: Our approach begins with architectural flexibility and investment protection. Satellite and ground infrastructure represent long-term commitments. Customers need confidence that the systems they purchase can evolve as services, network architectures and standards change.

For SpaceBridge, this means developing adaptable modem and ground-network technology and ensuring that it can work



effectively within a broader communications ecosystem. ESTELLA and UniHUB provide a foundation through dynamic bandwidth allocation, flexible waveform operation and network resource management. These capabilities allow the ground segment to respond to changing service requirements.

Multi-orbit networking adds another level of complexity. Antennas, RF equipment, modems, gateways, routing and service management must operate together. A successful solution needs to address coverage transitions, changing link conditions, differences in latency and the continuity of user applications.

We therefore approach multi-orbit development at the system level, combining our own expertise with that of ecosystem partners. SpaceBridge brings decades of satellite ground-segment expertise and a proven record of innovation to this evolving ecosystem. With ESTELLA, UniHUB and our proprietary WaveSwitch™ technology, we have translated advanced engineering into commercially deployed platforms that give operators greater flexibility, efficient use of satellite capacity and control over their networks. We are building on these achievements to help shape the next generation of integrated

satellite communications, working with ecosystem partners to advance performance, interoperability and resilience across the complete architecture.

We also see 5G NTN as an important direction for closer integration between satellite and mobile networks. There are different opportunities within that evolution, including satellite backhaul and more direct integration of satellite access into mobile service architectures. Each has its own technical and commercial requirements.

Our focus is on where SpaceBridge can contribute meaningful value through waveform efficiency, modem performance, resource management and interoperability. Standards are important, but customers also need workable terminal economics, dependable performance and manageable deployment complexity.

Software-defined infrastructure supports this evolution by making it easier to change services and introduce capabilities throughout the equipment's useful life. At the same time, high-performance communications still depend on the quality of the underlying processing and RF design. Our approach combines adaptable software with hardware engineered for demanding

management, alongside improvements in capacity and functionality. These operational details matter greatly to customers managing geographically dispersed sites.

UniHUB extends ESTELLA technology into a compact platform, opening opportunities where space, power, mobility and deployment logistics are important constraints. We see particular value in tactical military applications and distributed hub architectures designed to reduce dependence on a single central location.

Our development direction includes expanded mesh capabilities and coordination among distributed network elements. The objective is greater survivability through alternative communications paths and appropriately distributed control. That resilience must be engineered across the complete system, including power, antennas, satellite resources and management infrastructure.

The next phase of ESTELLA therefore combines higher performance with simpler operations, greater deployment flexibility and stronger communications assurance.

KA: The Middle East and Africa remain important markets for satellite

connectivity. Where do you see the strongest growth opportunities across the region today?

DG: We see particularly strong opportunities in government and defence, cellular backhaul, enterprise connectivity and remote industrial operations. We also see considerable potential in satellite-based content distribution, particularly across Africa. These markets have different operational and commercial priorities, and success requires solutions suited to local needs.

In the Middle East, sovereign communications and the protection of critical infrastructure are important areas of opportunity. Government and defence users need networks that they can control, secure and adapt to their missions. Energy companies, maritime operators and transportation organisations also require dependable connectivity across remote areas and moving platforms.

For these customers, service continuity can have direct operational consequences. The communications system must support essential applications, prioritise critical traffic and remain manageable when conditions become difficult. This creates demand for

“Ultimately, we measure progress through customer outcomes: more effective use of capacity, faster service changes, simpler operations and greater freedom to evolve the network.”

communications workloads.

Ultimately, we measure progress through customer outcomes: more effective use of capacity, faster service changes, simpler operations and greater freedom to evolve the network.

KA: As operators look for greater flexibility and efficiency from their ground infrastructure, how are customer requirements changing, and how is SpaceBridge responding?

DG: Customers increasingly evaluate the performance and economics of the complete operational network. Peak throughput is important, but it is only one part of the assessment. Operators also want to know how much satellite capacity is required to deliver the service, how the network behaves under load, how critical traffic is protected and what it will cost to expand.

Traffic patterns are becoming more diverse. One site may generate small amounts of intermittent data, while another requires sustained capacity for enterprise applications or video. Requirements can also change over the course of a day. A network that allocates resources too rigidly can leave capacity underused in one area while another site is constrained.

SpaceBridge addresses this through adaptive resource management. The ESTELLA platform combines shared access with dynamically assigned continuous carriers, allowing the network to serve different traffic profiles within a common architecture. Our proprietary WaveSwitch™ technology adds flexibility and enables dynamic, on-the-fly transitions between shared TDMA resources and dedicated continuous carriers as traffic demand changes, optimising satellite

capacity utilisation while maintaining the required quality of service.

Our objective is to maximise usable network capacity while preserving the quality of service customers depend on. By allocating resources dynamically and prioritising critical traffic, we help operators meet their service commitments and sustain essential applications, even when bandwidth is constrained or link conditions deteriorate.

Customers also want greater control over their growth. They may begin with a relatively small deployment, add sites gradually and later introduce higher-capacity services. Scalable platforms and modular expansion help align capital expenditure with actual demand and reduce the disruption associated with growth.

UniHUB delivers powerful networking capabilities at an affordable cost, combining a compact design with simplified installation and reduced deployment expenses. Its small footprint and low power requirements make it particularly well suited to remote facilities, compact shelters and tactical environments, where space, weight and energy availability are critical constraints. By bringing ESTELLA technology into a practical, easily deployable platform, UniHUB makes advanced satellite networking accessible wherever it is needed.

Security and resilience are equally central. Customers need trusted access, protected information, secure management and redundancy appropriate to their mission. They also want to operate their networks under their own authority, with clear end-to-end visibility into performance and resource use.

We address these requirements through an integrated approach, combining

efficient waveforms, robust network design, straightforward management and dependable support. Our aim is to deliver technology that provides measurable value from day one and increases that value over time through expanded capabilities, improved efficiency and the flexibility to support new services throughout the network’s operational life.

KA: Looking beyond the Middle East, what are SpaceBridge’s key priorities for the coming year, and what can the industry expect next from the company?

DG: Our first priority is to translate our recent technical progress and commercial momentum into a broader base of successful operational networks. We see opportunities across North America, Latin America, Asia, Africa, PacRim and Europe, particularly in defence, government, enterprise communications and telecommunications infrastructure.

The expansion of existing customer networks is an important part of that strategy. When a customer adds hubs, terminals or services, it creates opportunities to deepen the relationship and demonstrate the scalability of our technology. We intend to build on these competitive advantages by expanding our market presence and strengthening regional sales, integration and support partnerships to accelerate adoption and deliver lasting value to our customers.

On the product side, we continue developing the ESTELLA and UniHUB platform, with emphasis on capacity, efficiency, mesh networking, operational simplicity and resilience.

Mesh is especially important for applications

“We are entering a period in which satellite communications must deliver greater flexibility, stronger resilience and better economics simultaneously.”

that require frequent communication between remote locations. Direct terminal-to-terminal connectivity can avoid routing that traffic through a central hub for retransmission, improving latency and reducing the satellite resources required for those exchanges. Combining star and mesh capabilities gives network designers more flexibility to support different applications within the same overall system.

We see significant opportunities for distributed hub architectures in tactical and mission-critical applications, including disaster recovery and military communications. By supporting mobility, geographic dispersion and alternative communications paths, these architectures can reduce dependence on a single hub location and maintain essential services when individual network elements become unavailable.

Higher-capacity modem technology remains another development priority. As customers adopt wider satellite channels and increasingly demanding applications, we are focused on delivering the processing power, spectral efficiency and cost-effectiveness needed to translate that capacity into higher usable throughput, competitive services and stronger returns on infrastructure investment.

In parallel, we intend to build on our return to the RF business. Bringing modem, networking and RF expertise together allows us to address more of the complete communications chain and optimise the interaction between its components.

Execution remains central to all these priorities. We support our technology with reliable manufacturing, efficient deployment, comprehensive customer training on our

new suite of diagnostic and performance KPI tools, and responsive technical assistance. These tools help customers monitor network health, assess performance and resolve issues efficiently.

We earn lasting customer confidence by delivering high-performance, cost-effective solutions backed by responsive support and an organisation that stands firmly behind its commitments. This is the foundation of our long-term partnerships and shared success.

The industry can expect SpaceBridge to continue delivering practical engineering innovation, with a clear focus on efficient, resilient and customer-controlled communications. Our ambition is to help operators build networks that perform well today and retain the flexibility to meet tomorrow’s requirements. ■

5G NTN Moves Closer to Reality

As satellite and terrestrial networks move towards deeper integration, ST Engineering iDirect is positioning its Intuition platform at the centre of the transition. From native 5G NR-NTN and multi-waveform terminals to hybrid GEO/LEO architectures, the company sees the next few years as a critical period for proving the technology and building the business case for commercial adoption.



Based on an interview with
Bert Van Der Linden,
Director Product Management at ST Engineering iDirect

The satellite industry's transition towards 5G Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTN) is accelerating, but the path from demonstrations and laboratory testing to widespread commercial deployment will be gradual.

Speaking to Teletimes International, Bert Van Der Linden, Director Product Management at ST Engineering iDirect, said the industry is now entering a phase in which operators and technology providers are testing 5G NR-NTN in customer laboratories, assessing not only whether the technology works, but where it can deliver tangible technical and commercial benefits.

Van Der Linden expects 2027 to remain largely a year of testing, technology validation and customer education, with the possibility of the first commercial deployments for transparent, or "bent-pipe", satellite architectures emerging around the end of 2027 and into 2028.

That timeline reflects a wider shift already taking place across the satellite ecosystem. ST Engineering iDirect has been advancing

native 5G NR-NTN connectivity through its cloud-native Intuition ground system, demonstrating standards-based satellite access and interoperability with the broader terrestrial 5G ecosystem.

From technology trials to an ecosystem

For satellite operators, however, the significance of 5G NTN goes well beyond replacing one waveform with another.

Van Der Linden argues that operators need to consider the broader ecosystem that comes with 5G — including interoperability, partnerships and, eventually, closer integration and roaming between terrestrial and satellite networks.

As operators invest in their next generation of ground infrastructure, forward compatibility with 5G NR-NTN could therefore become increasingly important.

"2027 will mostly be about comparing the two worlds from a technology perspective," Van Der Linden explained, while pointing

to the parallel need to convince customers that next-generation ground systems should at least be forward-compatible with 5G NR-NTN.

This standards-based approach is central to ST Engineering iDirect's strategy. Intuition has been developed as a cloud-native, software-defined ground system intended to give operators greater flexibility as satellite networks evolve towards increasingly virtualised, multi-orbit and standards-based architectures.

Different use cases will move at different speeds

The transition will not happen uniformly.

For narrower-band and direct-to-device applications, ST Engineering iDirect believes much of the terminal-side technology is already taking shape.

The company has demonstrated a pilot version of its INT3000 multi-waveform 5G NR-NTN User Equipment modem, designed to support 5G NR-NTN alongside established satellite waveforms.



During the interview, Van Der Linden said the modem technology can address a broad range of frequencies and applications, but stressed that the availability of the network itself remains critical.

"The question is who's going to deliver that network?" he said.

Van Der Linden sees a distinction between emerging direct-to-device applications and demanding high-throughput satellite backhaul applications. While the technology is approaching readiness for narrower-band use cases, matching the performance required for high-throughput, highly reliable backhaul remains a more substantial challenge.

For high-throughput backhaul, Van Der Linden acknowledged that 5G NR-NTN cannot yet match the throughput and availability that established satellite platforms deliver today.

That distinction is important because 5G NTN should not necessarily be viewed as an immediate replacement for every existing satellite technology.

A hybrid path towards 5G NTN

For applications such as cellular backhaul, where extracting maximum spectral efficiency remains critical, established DVB-based technologies can continue to offer advantages.

ST Engineering iDirect's approach is therefore to give operators the ability to support both existing DVB technologies and emerging 5G NTN services rather than forcing an immediate migration.

According to Van Der Linden, Intuition's software-defined approach can support established satellite waveforms as well as 5G NR-NTN, allowing operators to introduce the new technology progressively.

"They can do the investment today, secure their business by the unknown new technology and then gradually over time move to 5G NTN," he explained.

This hybrid strategy could be particularly relevant for operators with substantial existing GEO infrastructure while simultaneously investing in next-generation

constellations or services.

An operator could, for example, continue operating DVB-based services over GEO while introducing 5G NTN over a newer LEO architecture. Van Der Linden describes this ability to combine technologies as part of a hybrid, multi-waveform approach.

Rather than treating DVB and 5G NTN as mutually exclusive technologies, ST Engineering iDirect is effectively positioning them as technologies that can coexist during what could be a multi-year transition.

Multi-orbit brings opportunity — and complexity

The same pragmatism applies to multi-orbit satellite networks.

Combining GEO, MEO and LEO capacity can provide operators with greater flexibility and allow different networks to be used for primary connectivity, backup, traffic offload or specific applications such as media distribution and streaming.



a single terminal or combined through separate systems.

For some operators, GEO could remain the primary service while LEO provides backup. For others, the relationship could be reversed, with GEO capacity used for backup or to offload particular types of traffic.

The modem itself is not necessarily the biggest obstacle.

“The modem is perfectly capable of doing this,” Van Der Linden said, while emphasising that multi-orbit implementation “heavily depends on the antenna.”

Europe could become an important catalyst

Europe's IRIS² programme provides another indication of the direction in which the industry is heading.

The European programme is intended to establish a sovereign, multi-orbit satellite connectivity infrastructure, with commercial and governmental services expected to develop towards the end of the decade.

Van Der Linden pointed to European programmes and operator plans as important drivers for 5G NTN, particularly as the industry moves from transparent satellite architectures towards more sophisticated regenerative payloads.

His expectation is that transparent architectures will reach commercial implementation first.

“So, transparent, I think the first commercial deployments, let's say end of 2027, 2028; regenerative more towards 2030,” he said.

The distinction is important. Transparent satellites largely relay signals between the user and ground infrastructure, whereas regenerative architectures can perform more network processing onboard the spacecraft. Moving towards the latter

represents a more substantial architectural transformation.

Building satellite intelligence into 5G

Another important part of ST Engineering iDirect's strategy is adapting technologies originally developed for terrestrial 5G to the particular physics and operating conditions of satellite networks.

Satellite links introduce characteristics such as longer propagation delays, different coverage footprints and stringent spectrum-efficiency requirements.

ST Engineering iDirect is working with Capgemini on elements of its 5G technology stack, but Van Der Linden stressed that the objective is not simply to deploy partner software unchanged.

“I don't want to just deploy a partner software and then say, look, this is my product. Where is my differentiator there?” he said.

Instead, the company's engineering teams are working to make the technology more “satellite savvy”, including improving its performance in MEO and GEO environments where round-trip delays become increasingly important.

That satellite expertise extends into areas such as scheduling — determining how bandwidth is allocated among users within a cell — and improving the efficiency with which available satellite capacity is utilised.

Van Der Linden states that technologies and expertise developed for ST Engineering iDirect's existing satellite platforms can increasingly be applied to 5G NR-NTN as well.

Tackling GNSS dependency and resilience

Another technical challenge is the dependence of 5G NR-NTN systems on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) for positioning and timing information.



At CABSAT, ST Engineering iDirect will demonstrate a full end-to-end 5G NR NTN connectivity demo on Intuition with two 5G UEs, one is iDirect's INT3000 and one 3rd party 5G UE.

That dependency can create resilience concerns in environments where GNSS signals may be unavailable, jammed or spoofed.

Van Der Linden highlighted this as an increasingly important area of work within the standards community.

“If we do nothing in the standards, then the 5G NR system will become very dependent — or, we call it, vulnerable — for GPS spoofing [and] jamming,” he said.

3GPP work is already addressing GNSS resilience as the NTN specifications continue to evolve. Van Der Linden said ST Engineering iDirect has been contributing to the standards process and sees this as another area where its satellite-specific knowledge can contribute to the development of future 5G NTN architectures.

The transition has begun

5G NTN is therefore moving beyond the conceptual stage, but commercialisation is unlikely to arrive as a single industry-wide switch.

Instead, Van Der Linden sees a phased transition: laboratory testing and proofs of concept today; initial commercial implementations in selected applications over the next several years; and increasingly

integrated terrestrial and satellite networks as standards, terminals, constellations and business models mature.

ST Engineering iDirect's strategy reflects that reality.

Rather than asking operators to choose between the satellite technologies of today and the 5G ecosystem of tomorrow, the company is building Intuition around coexistence — bringing together cloud-native infrastructure, established satellite waveforms, native 5G NR-NTN and multi-orbit capabilities.

For operators, that could become particularly important during a period in which the technological direction is becoming clearer even though the precise pace of adoption remains uncertain.

As Van Der Linden's comments underline, the immediate challenge is no longer simply demonstrating that 5G NTN can work. The next phase is about proving which use cases it serves best, where it creates economic and operational value, and how satellite operators can move towards it without compromising the networks and services they already operate. ■

If you're attending CABSAT / SATExpo Middle East in Dubai this year, do visit ST Engineering's booth for live demos at their stand # H3-A10.

But Van Der Linden cautions that the economics and complexity of the terminal remain among the biggest considerations.

Different satellite constellations can require different antenna characteristics. Even within the same frequency band, operators may encounter differences such as linear

versus circular polarisation, adding another layer of complexity at the terminal.

While multi-orbit connectivity is technically attractive, Van Der Linden believes the practical equation will depend heavily on antenna technology, terminal cost and whether networks are integrated into

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Projected D2D market
by 2040

SPACE42

Viasat



Teletimes: How do you see the satellite connectivity market evolving today, and which trends will have the greatest impact on commercial growth over the next three to five years?

Jassem Nasser: Satellite connectivity is moving from a standalone service targeted at niche markets, toward a long-term, integrated layer of the mobile network. 3GPP Release 17 established standards for Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTN), creating a common framework through which standards-compatible smartphones and other devices can access terrestrial and satellite networks without modification. By 2029, commercial growth will depend on translating that technical convergence into services that can operate at mobile-market scale.

Three factors will be critical: interoperability between terrestrial and non-terrestrial networks, a simple and seamless commercial model for end users, and improved economics for delivering space-based services. Together, these factors will determine the pace at which satellite connectivity transitions from niche applications to mainstream adoption within the telecommunications industry.

TT: Space42 brings together satellite communications, geospatial intelligence, and AI capabilities. How are you translating these capabilities into new commercial opportunities and scalable services across global markets?

JN: Space42 is a multifaceted organization offering integrated

solutions to industries across energy, maritime, emergency response, telecommunications, and other business segments. Customers, in particular enterprises and government entities, need to maintain communications across remote operations, monitor changes across a large geographic area, or make sense of complex datasets efficiently. Space42 by leveraging its various capabilities is positioned to best advise and provide the necessary operational and business support to these customers.

Satellite communications provide the connectivity layer, geospatial intelligence provides situational awareness, and AI accelerates the conversion of data into actionable insights. The commercial opportunity is to turn that combination into repeatable services that address

common operational challenges across sectors and markets. We therefore tailor solutions for our customers to support growing their business, achieve cost savings and create sustainable business models.

Scaling our capability is not a siloed effort. Take for example the upcoming Direct-to-Device (D2D) venture with Viasat, Equatys. In building the shared infrastructure platform, we will be drawing from established commercial relationships with more than 400 mobile operators worldwide. To further our Earth

“The commercial opportunity is to turn that combination into repeatable services that address common operational challenges across sectors and markets”

Observation capabilities, our AI-powered geospatial intelligence platform GIQ, draws inputs from multiple third-party data providers and proprietary AI models, to ensure an accurate understanding of ground conditions.

TT: Which markets and customer segments do you see offering the strongest growth opportunities for Space42, particularly across the Middle East, Africa and emerging markets?

JN: The government segment remains the largest, offering significant long-term opportunities for space-based connectivity and intelligence solutions. This includes applications for national connectivity, secure and sovereign



communications, infrastructure resilience, and backup communications.

Following this, the maritime industry is typically the second largest in terms of satcom opportunities, however we are seeing growing demand from the enterprise market, specifically across key sectors such as energy, mining, and civil defense for satcom as well as geospatial

intelligence products.

Geospatial intelligence can support infrastructure, energy, agriculture, environmental monitoring, and mobility, where timely information translates directly into better operational and economic outcomes. We see significant potential for these sectors across Africa and other emerging markets.

We assess these opportunities through local demand and market conditions rather than geography alone. Our technical capabilities as well as spectrum and market access across more than 160 countries provide us with extensive potential reach. Turning that reach into commercial activity requires the right licensing, distribution channels, and local expertise.

Our approach is therefore partnership-led. We combine global technology and infrastructure with partners that understand their markets, regulatory environments, and customers. Looking at our Space Services business alone,

efficient use of assets and spectrum. As participation increases, asset utilization improves supporting densification of the infrastructure and hence growth of the overall ecosystem. The scaling of this system and participants results in better economics to serve a broader base of operators and customers.

The architecture is also designed to expand as demand develops and incorporates new technology over time. Together, these characteristics are intended to move satellite connectivity closer to the economics required for mass-market adoption. These benefits remain forward-looking and depend on

terrestrial expansion. It also allows the mobile operator to remain at the center of the customer relationship.

For the end user, the longer-term objective is seamless service continuity. When terrestrial coverage ends, the satellite layer extends the operator's network experience without requiring the customer to manage the transition between networks.

Equatys is our intended solution to this need. A choice and independence enabling multi-participant approach encourages price competition and innovation, while reducing the risk of significant market power that distorts level playing fields.

TT: Looking ahead, what role do you expect Equatys to play in Space42's broader commercial growth strategy, and what will be important in taking the model from concept to deployment at scale?

JN: Equatys has the potential to become an important growth platform for Space42 by connecting our global spectrum position, decades of industry experience, and strong industry relationships, with an established route to the mobile market.

Together, Space42 and Viasat have commercial relationships with more than 400 mobile operators. Equatys creates a pathway through which those relationships can support broader D2D and advanced mobile satellite services.

The focus now is execution. Formation of the venture, constellation procurement, and the corresponding definitive agreements remain subject to customary closing conditions, including regulatory approvals. From there, the priorities are to bring the initial system into service, establish the operating model, and create the conditions for additional operators, spectrum licensees, and strategic or financial participants to join the platform over time. ■

“Equatys has the potential to become an important growth platform for Space42 by connecting our global spectrum position, decades of industry experience, and strong industry relationships, with an established route to the mobile market.”

we operate through 146 active service partners across different markets.

TT: Equatys introduces a shared-infrastructure model for satellite-enabled connectivity. How could this approach change the economics of deploying and operating satellite services?

JN: Equatys is being established as an independent, neutral shared space and ground infrastructure platform. Its Tower Company model applies a familiar terrestrial construct to space. Licensed operators can use common infrastructure rather than financing separate global systems, while retaining their spectrum rights, customers, and commercial relationships.

The economic logic is based on sharing the cost of infrastructure across multiple participants and making more

successful formation, deployment, and ecosystem participation.

TT: Could shared satellite infrastructure help operators expand coverage and capacity more quickly, particularly in markets where the economics of dedicated infrastructure have traditionally been challenging?

JN: For mobile operators, the shared model provides a different route to satellite-enabled expansion. Rather than investing in and operating a dedicated satellite system, an operator could access common space and ground infrastructure while retaining its spectrum rights, customer relationships, and commercial proposition.

This changes the investment equation in markets where demand for additional coverage exists but may be insufficient to justify a standalone constellation or

Eutelsat and OroraTech partner for thermal wildfire detection



Eutelsat and Germany's OroraTech, a space-based thermal intelligence, announced a new partnership where OroraTech will reserve space aboard Eutelsat's future OneWeb Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites to host 48 thermal infrared payloads, with options for an additional 48.

Supported by the French and German governments as part of the Franco-German cooperation in space and announced at the occasion of the International Space Summit in Paris, the partnership brings together Eutelsat's satellite capabilities and OroraTech's space-based thermal intelligence technology to strengthen wildfire monitoring from orbit.

Recent wildfires in France, Germany and elsewhere in Europe have underscored the importance of detecting fires as early as possible. This is particularly challenging in remote areas where fires may remain undetected by traditional monitoring systems. OroraTech detects and characterizes thermal anomalies from orbit and transforms them into actionable intelligence, enabling earlier detection and helping emergency services understand

how wildfires will evolve over time.

Under the agreement, OroraTech is planning to deploy its thermal infrared payloads aboard future Eutelsat OneWeb LEO satellites, enabling it to substantially expand its thermal monitoring network in the coming years. The expanded network will strengthen OroraTech's wildfire intelligence capabilities while also supporting additional applications including critical infrastructure, environmental monitoring and security

For Eutelsat, the partnership showcases a significant new use case for its future LEO satellites, extending the use of its infrastructure beyond pure connectivity, and highlighting the opportunity for hosted payloads as an additional source of value-creation from future LEO satellites.

Eutelsat's broadband connectivity has already been used by emergency services responding to wildfires around the world, providing essential communications for teams operating on the ground. Onboarding OroraTech's technology will complement that role by helping emergency services

identify fires earlier from space.

Jean-François Fallacher, Chief Executive Officer, Eutelsat commented: "The severe wildfires experienced in France, Germany and elsewhere in Europe this summer highlight the growing threat facing communities and the environment. We are pleased to work with OroraTech to carry its detection technology aboard our future satellites and contribute to efforts to identify fires earlier, complementing the role our connectivity can play in supporting emergency teams on the ground. Separately, it showcases the opportunity to generate additional value from our in-space assets by embarking third-party payloads on our satellites."

"This partnership is about moving from satellites to infrastructure," said Martin Langer, CEO of OroraTech. "Eutelsat has built a unique European LEO infrastructure, while OroraTech has built the world's leading operational thermal intelligence capability. By combining both, we create a credible path toward persistent, low-latency thermal intelligence at global scale - built in Europe and available globally." ■

Beyond Traditional DTH

Eutelsat's Vision for Video in MENA

The video landscape across the Middle East and North Africa is evolving rapidly, creating new opportunities for broadcasters to expand reach, improve the viewer experience and generate additional revenues. With satellite at the heart of the region's distribution ecosystem, **Raymond Estphan Rahme, Regional Vice President of MENA Sales, Video Business Unit at Eutelsat**, discusses the trends shaping the market and the technologies influencing the next phase of video distribution.

Interview: Gulraiz Khalid

Teletimes: How is the video broadcasting market evolving across MENA, and what trends are having the greatest impact on the industry?

Raymond Estphan Rahme: One of the major trends we are seeing is a greater need to reach much larger populations. In the current regional context, resilience and service continuity have also become essential. The ability to distribute content effectively, in consistently high quality, to very large audiences, wherever they are located, remains extremely important. This is where satellite continues to demonstrate its unique strengths, combining extensive coverage with highly reliable, one-to-many distribution that does not depend on the number of people watching.

Sports content is a particularly strong example of this. We are seeing strong momentum around sports content, supported by government-led initiatives in markets such as Saudi Arabia. As audiences for premium sporting events grow, so does the challenge of delivering a high-quality live experience to millions of viewers simultaneously. Satellite is ideally suited to this environment, providing consistent quality and broad coverage, even in areas where fixed or mobile connectivity is limited.

At the same time, the industry is looking beyond reach alone and increasingly focusing on how to generate more value from content and audiences. Broadcasters and other media



Raymond Estphan Rahme,
RVP of MENA Sales (VBU) at Eutelsat

“Satellite remains at the heart of the broader video ecosystem. It is still the main consumption model of the viewer in the region.”

players are looking at how they can strengthen engagement, better understand their viewers and open up new monetisation opportunities. This is where Eutelsat's new video solutions can play an important role, combining the scale and reliability of satellite distribution with new capabilities that help broadcasters create greater value.

Teletimes: As streaming continues to grow, how is satellite's role evolving within the broader video distribution ecosystem?

Rahme: Satellite remains at the heart of the broader video ecosystem. Despite the growth of streaming, it continues to be the main consumption model for viewers across the region. Our 7/8° West video neighbourhood alone reaches 70 million homes in the MENA region, with around 1,000 channels.

The fundamental advantages of satellite remain highly relevant. It provides wide and resilient coverage, enabling broadcasters to reach audiences across large geographic areas.

This is particularly important in countries where infrastructure is not very developed. In these markets, satellite continues to provide the coverage and reach needed to deliver video content effectively to viewers.

Teletimes: Which markets and customer segments offer the strongest growth opportunities for Eutelsat's video business in MENA?

Rahme: I would put sports at the top of the list. There is significant interest around sports content across the region, making it an important segment for the video market with growing audience demand creating significant opportunities for video distribution.

News is another key segment. Given the dynamics of the region, demand for immediate, reliable access to news content remains consistently strong, reinforcing the importance of robust, wide-reaching

distribution.

General entertainment also continues to play a major role. Turkey and Egypt, in particular, are two huge content hubs in the region with a strong and continuous pipeline of new programming. This creates an ongoing need to distribute content efficiently, both within individual markets and across the wider MENA video ecosystem.

Teletimes: How is Eutelsat leveraging new technologies and hybrid distribution models to enhance its video offering?

Rahme: We are building on the strengths of traditional satellite by adding new technologies that bring greater flexibility, engagement and monetisation opportunities to our customers.

DVB-NIP is a great example. Delivering OTT over satellite, it effectively brings together the best of two worlds, combining the reach and efficiency of DTH with the flexibility and user

“Viewership measurement and targeted advertising over satellite are now possible which is directly facilitating the capability to generate more revenues from advertising.”

experience of OTT distribution.

With Sat.tv we are enriching the traditional DTH experience, making content easier to discover, giving viewers access to more information and creating a more engaging user experience.

We are also introducing audience measurement and targeted advertising over satellite. These are particularly relevant, giving broadcasters greater insight into their audiences and new ways to generate more value and revenues from advertising.

FAST is another exciting opportunity. Bringing OTT content onto satellite, helps

expand the reach of that content while also creating additional opportunities to generate advertising revenues.

Another important development is Video Contribution over LEO, through Eutelsat's OneWeb constellation. This offers a new way to backhaul content, supporting fully IP native workflows with low latency, easy-to-deploy solutions.

Together, these technologies allow us to combine the scale and reliability of satellite with the flexibility, intelligence and monetisation potential of IP, creating a richer and more powerful video ecosystem.

Teletimes: Looking ahead, what are Eutelsat's key priorities for strengthening its video business and partnerships across the MENA region?

Rahme: Our priority is to build on our leading position in MENA, maintaining our premium reach, while continuing to bring more value to our customers and partners. This includes enhancing our core video offering with new capabilities such as electronic programme guides, audience measurement and targeted advertising, helping broadcasters better

understand and engage their audiences and unlock new revenue opportunities.

At the same time, we will continue to accelerate the adoption of our new solutions that complement traditional satellite distribution and respond to the evolving needs of the market.

Importantly, this is not only about providing new capabilities directly to consumers. We want to bring value to other players across the MENA video ecosystem. By combining our existing reach with these newer technologies and services, we can continue to evolve our video offering in line with the changing requirements of the regional market. **T**



Andrey Kirillovich,
Director of Strategy, Marketing
and Business Development
Intersputnik

Interview: Gulraiz Khalid

Gulraiz Khalid: How is Intersputnik adapting its strategy as the satellite industry shifts toward multi-orbit and increasingly integrated networks?

Andrey Kirillovich: Intersputnik, being an international intergovernmental organization, throughout its 55-year history, has always been acting for the benefit of its Member States. We see how the satellite industry is evolving and use our vast experience in building communications and broadcasting networks via satellite to ensure that our Members and Signatories, located on almost all continents, can take the best of the GSO and non-GSO worlds. And that seamless integration with terrestrial networks is done in a proper way, not harming the overall performance of the national backbone and internal grid. The majority of our Members represent

developing regions, so traditional video distribution still plays a significant role in their broadcasting strategies. And here a GSO satellite is the best solution. On data access / distribution, we assume that in case a non-GSO system meets national legislation and receives a license to operate, it can provide the nation with fast-deployable mass internet access. However, a full shift to large satellite constellations for internet access may seriously or completely cease national broadband initiatives in the country, having consequences for the GDP value and overall digital infrastructure development, as well as for national data and connectivity sovereignty. As a result, we see that more and more national administrations start looking at a national communications GSO satellite. This means that the nations will mix non-GSO constellations for individual mass internet

with governmental, more sensitive traffic to be routed via national small GSO satellites. The pricing for the latter is going down now.

GK: Where do you see the strongest growth opportunities for satellite connectivity over the next three to five years?

AK: Mobility for sure. End-user satellite terminals are becoming smaller and cheaper, so any passenger transport will sooner or later be equipped with in-flight, at-sea or on-the-road connectivity. Also, since the price of the CPE (customer premises equipment) goes down with mass production, new market segments will be opening in travel, banking, point of sale, forestry, first response and other segments, where before it was impossible to equip every unit or team with a satellite terminal. One more promising option is backup. With

“For sure the satellite has gained its place in the mobile networks of the future.”

reduced CPE pricing, more businesses and network operators start using satellite as a primary or secondary backup solution.

GK: How are changing customer requirements influencing Intersputnik's partnerships and service portfolio?

AK: Rapidly evolving technologies and corresponding changes in the international regulatory landscape have created a serious need for training. Today, the shortage of qualified personnel is becoming one of the factors limiting the development of modern satellite communications systems in various regions of the world. We strive to change this situation. For this purpose, Intersputnik is undertaking extensive work aimed at developing the competencies and improving the qualifications of professionals from the Organization's Member States. Two satcom training seminars were arranged in 2025 in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan in partnership with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

And in November 2025, in Baku, at the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25), Intersputnik and ITU signed a cooperation agreement to promote industry capacity building and digital skills for professionals in the field of satellite communications and broadcasting technologies. The purpose of the agreement is to create a sustainable platform for training qualified personnel. The project involves the development of a comprehensive training programme and an online platform for remote access to materials. This will give impetus to the implementation of satellite projects, improve the quality of services and open up opportunities for international cooperation.

Intersputnik's capacity-building efforts also extend to supporting young professionals from the Organization's Member States as part of our Youth Far Beyond Borders (YFBB) project. Since 2023, more than 100 young

people from 16 countries have taken part in it.

GK: What role do you expect 5G NTN and direct-to-device connectivity to play in the future satellite ecosystem?

AK: Satellite has finally become an integral part of the Mobile Network Operators (MNO) ecosystem. The latest Mobile World Congress in Barcelona this spring featured satellite connectivity and D2D (Direct-to-Device) as one of the major developments for the mobile industry. There are still many questions to be answered: on the technology, spectrum, throughput and licenses, but the major concern is what business model will be finally successful: D2D operators offering their infrastructure for expanding terrestrial MNO network, or D2D providers acting as a separate MNO? The time will show, but for sure the satellite has gained its place in the mobile networks of the future.

GK: As satellite deployments and orbital congestion increase, how is Intersputnik approaching space sustainability and the responsible use of orbital resources?

AK: Intersputnik has always been supporting space sustainability and the prudent use

on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities at COPUOS and beyond, and are supporting initiatives aimed at space sustainability. For example, in 2021 Intersputnik was one of the signing parties to the Space Industry Debris Statement on minimizing and preventing, where possible, any new debris created as a result of space missions, developed within the framework of the World Economic Forum. Moreover, after the International Telecommunication Union placed greater emphasis on this issue as part of its role in managing radio-frequency spectrum and satellite-orbit resources, the Intersputnik Executive Director Elina Morozova was appointed as an editor of the Handbook on Best Practices for the Sustainable Use of Frequencies and Associated Non-GSO by Space Radiocommunication Services, currently being developed within the ITU Radiocommunication Sector.

GK: Looking ahead, what will be Intersputnik's key priorities as competition and investment in the global space sector accelerate?

AK: As was said earlier, Intersputnik is an international intergovernmental organization uniting member countries and Signatories from all over the world. So, for us it is essential to bring value to our stakeholders. It can be satellite communications or broadcasting networks deployment, reselling of their national satellite bandwidth on the international

“Whatever the challenge, Intersputnik is here to support its Members, Signatories and the wider satcom community.”

of orbital resources. Our Organization enjoys the status of a permanent observer with the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). Intersputnik has accepted the obligation to comply with the Outer Space Treaty and the responsibility for compliance with this treaty, as well as the rights and obligations under three other UN treaties on outer space. We are closely following discussions

market, assistance and guidance for their national satellite programmes, implementation of the satcom segment in their national digital infrastructure development, or last but not least – proper training on the new technologies and regulations. Whatever the challenge, Intersputnik is here to support its Members, Signatories and the wider satcom community. ■

AI, Quantum and the New Cybersecurity Reality

Huawei Gulf North's Chief Security Officer **Sultan Mahmood Malik** on Building Cyber Resilience

Interview: Khalid Athar

Khalid Athar: As AI adoption accelerates, how is the cybersecurity threat landscape evolving for governments and enterprises?

Sultan Mehmood: Thank you very much, Mr. Khalid. This is a very good question to begin with. AI adoption is progressing at an unprecedented pace at the moment. And it is not only governments, enterprises, or other legitimate entities that are adopting AI into their businesses and operations. Cybercriminals are actually taking the lead in adopting AI to fast-track and improve their offensive capabilities.

Take, for example, the skill level that was previously required to launch certain sophisticated attacks: it was very high. Today, offensive AI tools can lower the barriers to entry, enabling threat actors, who can now launch sophisticated phishing and scamming attacks at a very rapid pace, while requiring less technical capability.

What we can see as a result is that the fundamental threat landscape has evolved. As attack cycles become increasingly compressed, organisations may have only minutes—or, in some cases, seconds—to

detect and respond to malicious activity. Responders who were equipped for analyst-level or human-level speed cannot match the machine-level speed of these attacks. So, this is exactly what we are seeing across not only governments and enterprises, but virtually any entity. This is how threats are evolving at this pace.

KA: How is Huawei integrating security and privacy into its AI, cloud and network infrastructure?

SM: Huawei believes in embedding security and privacy protection into all of its activities, whether it is R&D, business processes, or human resources. We follow secure-by-design and privacy-by-design principles, integrating security requirements into our products and solutions from the initial design stage and throughout their lifecycle.

With the advantages of AI, we are further enhancing all of these capabilities. For example, we have strengthened our R&D process. Our R&D process was already very comprehensive and one of the best in the industry, but now we have enhanced it with our AI-driven capabilities. This helps our

research and development teams design at a better pace, test a large number of test cases using automation, and verify many things using AI capabilities. Obviously, Huawei believes that humans must remain in the loop, so our experts continue to oversee critical decisions while using AI capabilities to enhance the overall process.

This commitment is supported by sustained investment. In 2025, Huawei invested approximately USD27.5 billion in R&D globally, representing 21.8% of its revenue. Approximately 5% of our R&D investment is dedicated to cybersecurity and privacy protection, and Huawei has invested around USD10 billion in these areas over the past decade.

The second aspect is about the capabilities that our customers should have. Huawei also believes that devices should be secure and should have their own native security capabilities. Huawei embeds security functions into almost all of its products and solutions, including core networks, routers, and transmission equipment, to help customers strengthen protection and resilience across their infrastructure. Last but not least, Huawei believes that security



is not just the function of one entity or one organization. Huawei fundamentally believes in continuing to collaborate with industry bodies, regulators, and customers so that the entire value chain is protected. Cybersecurity, as we always say, is a shared responsibility, and Huawei continues to recognise industry standards and best practices and collaborating with customers to make sure that resilience is a function and business priority of the organization rather than just an IT security function.

KA: What are the biggest cybersecurity challenges faced by organizations in the Middle East today?

SM: As I just mentioned, AI-driven attacks

and AI-powered cybercriminals are key challenges by default. During periods of geopolitical tension, we have seen phishing and scamming go to the next level and I believe these are likely to continue in the coming days as well.

Of course, ransomware attacks and denial-of-service attacks have been around for many years, and I believe they will remain significant. Looking further ahead, quantum computing presents an emerging security challenge. Although the timeline remains uncertain, organisations should begin assessing their exposure and preparing for post-quantum security, particularly where sensitive data must remain protected for many years.

So, these are a few things that we believe every organization must pay attention to because the threats are either already present or likely to become more prominent as technologies and attack capabilities continue to evolve.

KA: How can governments, technology providers and enterprises collaborate more effectively to strengthen cyber resilience?

SM: That is also a very good question. As I mentioned before, cyber resilience is not just about having a very good or secure product. Cyber resilience, in my humble opinion, is a function of multiple aspects and requires collaboration across different

stakeholders.

For example, vendors must provide secure products. At the same time, governments need to work together with vendors, technology operators, the ecosystem, and industry organizations to put forward laws, guidelines, and regulations that foster a culture across the ecosystem in which parties feel more positive and open to collaboration.

They should not just compete with each other for business value but actively collaborate so that, as a sector and as an industry, we build security and create a secure future for everyone, not just for one business or one entity.

Cyber resilience will be tested only when there is a critical incident, and that critical incident will determine whether an entity was resilient—whether it faced the challenge, overcame it, and kept functioning—or whether it became a victim. This can only be possible through preparedness and collaboration from the beginning. It also requires regular testing, incident-response planning, information sharing and a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of all parties across the ecosystem.

KA: With 5G-Advanced and increasingly intelligent networks, how are security requirements changing for telecom operators?

SM: That is a very good question. When we talk about 5G-Advanced, in my opinion, it is not just for consumers, nor does it

“We still have an opportunity. The window of opportunity for defenders is still open, but it may not remain open for very long.”

only relate to high speeds. 5G-Advanced is fundamentally designed for industries. It fundamentally changes how industries operate.

For example, factories, airports, and ports can leverage 5G-Advanced capabilities to

bring automation, efficiency, and greater safety for workers in the field. We have many solutions at our booth here that focus on oil and gas and mining, and they all leverage 5G-Advanced.

From that perspective, operators become enablers of industry. We are also entering an area where it is not just IT; operational technology is also coming into play. The convergence of IT and OT comes into play, and it is all enabled by 5G.

What operators, in my humble opinion,

“Quantum computing is coming. It's only a question of when. Preparation for post-quantum security must begin now.”

need to do is build capabilities that will allow them to enable vertical industries. Vertical industries are fundamentally built around high-volume, high-value organizations. When operators have the ambition to modernize or help those industries transform, they need to understand how OT works, how to secure OT, and how OT can bleed into IT.

They need to provide confidence to industry verticals that they can help them transform in a very secure and resilient manner. In sectors such as oil and gas, operational continuity and safety are critical, and even a short disruption can have significant operational and financial consequences.

Any cyberattack, for that particular matter, could potentially disrupt such a billion-dollar operation. That is why resilience and

reliability is of highest concern. However, we have seen successful cases in oil and gas, airports, and ports where 5G adoption is happening.

The lesson we have learned from those operators is that they build these

capabilities and provide a full-stack view and full-stack capabilities to vertical industries.

KA: Looking ahead, which emerging cyber threats and technologies do you expect to have the greatest impact over the next three to five years?

SM: The first is Quantum computing is coming. Its potential impact on current cryptographic systems means organisations should not wait until the technology reaches maturity before acting. They should

begin assessing their cryptographic assets and dependencies and planning for post-quantum cryptography and quantum-safe migration.

The second is AI. What we have seen so far is not the peak of AI. We have seen frontier AI models. You have seen some news that they can break through sandbox environments and attack or hack some organizations. Threat actors are actively leveraging AI, but in my humble opinion, this is not the peak. The peak is yet to come, when general-purpose computing and AI infrastructure will be largely available and more economical at scale. At that point, threat actors could be at the peak of their capabilities.

We still have an opportunity. The window of opportunity for defenders is still open, but it may not remain open for very long. This is the right time for organizations to think about how they can evolve and how they can prepare frameworks in which they can proactively take advantage of AI capabilities rather than become victims. At Huawei, we describe this approach as “AI for Security and Security for AI”—using AI to strengthen cyber defence while also protecting AI systems, models and data. So, these are the two things, in my opinion, that will define the next three to five years, or perhaps the rest of the decade. ■

Huawei Cloud launches MaaS Security white paper at GISEC GLOBAL 2026 to support secure large-scale enterprise AI adoption



Huawei has launched its HUAWEI CLOUD MaaS Security white paper at GISEC GLOBAL 2026, offering enterprises practical guidance on securing Model-as-a-Service (MaaS) platforms as AI adoption moves from pilot projects into core business operations.

As governments and enterprises across the region accelerate AI adoption, organisations need to balance innovation with data protection, accountability and effective oversight. The white paper addresses these priorities through a shared-responsibility model and security measures spanning the MaaS service lifecycle.

Security, stability, and quality are Huawei Cloud’s top priorities. The white paper emphasizes that security must now cover the entire service chain, from computing infrastructure to Agent applications. Central

to this framework is a shared-responsibility model where Huawei Cloud secures the cloud and managed MaaS services, while clients take responsibility for the security of content they configure, upload, develop and consume on the MaaS platform.

Built on this foundation, the white paper sets out five areas of protection: data, model, content, application and operations security, and describes how Huawei embeds these into a DevSecOps pipeline that shifts security controls early into model and application development. This approach provides practical guidance for practitioners and regulators on data protection and lifecycle management, robust access control for multi-tenant environments, and specialized security for models and Agents to defend against AI-specific risks. It further outlines a systematic regime for continuous monitoring and incident response, ensuring

that AI governance remains proactive and traceable throughout its operational life.

Alan Qi, President of Huawei Cloud Middle East & Central Asia, commented: “The new digital order is changing the conventional norms of cybersecurity. As AI becomes embedded in critical operations across the region’s banks, government services and enterprises, security must evolve beyond protecting infrastructure to governing the models and Agents built on top of it. This white paper sets out Huawei Cloud’s approach to securing MaaS services and the measures customers can take to protect their applications throughout the lifecycle.”

The white paper also features a real-world case study on a financial institution that successfully implemented a multi-layer protection framework to secure intelligent claim settlement and internal workflows. ■

Huawei unveils new AI infrastructure breakthroughs as the Middle East scales AI ambitions

Company launches industry's first NPO-based SuperPoD and mass-production-ready NPO optical engine with built-in light source, alongside accelerated Ascend AI chip roadmap

As the Middle East accelerates investment in artificial intelligence and the infrastructure needed to support it, Huawei has unveiled a new generation of AI computing technologies designed to address the growing demands of complex AI models.

Announced at Huawei Connect 2026 in Shanghai, the new technologies include the Atlas 960E, the industry's first NPO-based SuperPoD, and Hi-ONE, which is the industry's first mass-production-ready near-packaged optics (NPO) optical engine and the first with a built-in light source. Huawei also revealed that the development of its next-generation Ascend 960 AI chips is progressing ahead of schedule, as the company moves towards a one-generation-per-year chip development cycle.

The announcements come as AI infrastructure becomes a critical part of the Middle East's technology ambitions. Governments and businesses across the region are moving beyond AI experimentation towards deployment at scale in line with national visions, driving demand for the computing capacity, energy efficiency and reliability needed to train and run sophisticated models.

Huawei's latest infrastructure is designed for this next stage of AI development. Foundation models are rapidly approaching 10 trillion parameters, placing significantly greater demands on the systems that train and run them. Huawei expects models to exceed 100 trillion parameters by 2030.

Among Huawei's key announcements at the event is the Atlas 960E SuperPoD, powered by the company's UnifiedBus



architecture and its new Hi-ONE optical engine. A single Atlas 960E can scale to 4,096 NPUs, delivering 8 EFLOPS of FP8 computing performance and 16 EFLOPS at FP4 precision, with up to 1 petabyte of HBM capacity.

The system incorporates 5,500 Hi-ONE units, removing the need for approximately 48,000 conventional 800G optical modules. Huawei says this reduces power consumption by more than 550 kilowatts, while doubling fault-free operating time and achieving 99.8% system availability.

Hi-ONE is also designed to improve the efficiency of high-speed optical interconnects as AI infrastructure expands. Its architecture reduces power consumption by approximately 66% and signal transmission latency by around 90%,

while Huawei says its integrated design improves overall reliability by ten times.

David Wang, Deputy Chairman of the Board and Rotating Chairman at Huawei, said: "AI is advancing faster than any technological revolution we have seen before, and the demands it places on computing infrastructure are growing just as quickly. While models become larger and more complex, we need to rethink how computing systems are designed, connected and scaled. At Huawei, we are addressing this through continued innovation in systems and architecture, from chips and interconnects to SuperPoDs and SuperClusters, while making computing power more readily accessible. No single company can build an intelligent world alone, which is why we will continue to work with customers, partners and

developers to build the foundations needed for this next stage of AI."

Accelerating the next generation of AI compute

Huawei also provided an update on its Ascend AI chip roadmap. Ascend 960DT is expected in the first quarter of 2027, three quarters ahead of the company's original roadmap, followed by Ascend 960PR in the third quarter of 2027, one quarter ahead of schedule.

Huawei is moving to a one-generation-per-year development cycle, with Ascend 970 scheduled for 2028 and Ascend 980 for 2029. The company expects compute specifications to continue doubling with each generation.

"We're evolving our Ascend chip series on a one-generation-a-year cycle," Wang said. "Thanks to the Tau (τ) Scaling Law, not only will their compute specifications continue to double, but you can also expect to see huge improvements across the board in terms of memory bandwidth, memory capacity, interconnect bandwidth, and more."

Scaling AI infrastructure and its ecosystem

Beyond individual SuperPoDs, Huawei's architecture enables multiple Atlas 960E systems to form SuperClusters that can scale to as many as one million NPUs. The company also unveiled the upgraded TaiShan 950 SuperPoD and OceanStor M900 context memory storage cluster, extending its infrastructure portfolio across computing and storage.

Huawei is also expanding its open computing ecosystem. Ascend now supports more than 90 third-party open-source projects, while the Kunpeng ecosystem has grown to more than 4.16 million developers and 7,200 partners globally. CANN, the foundation of the Ascend software ecosystem, has also moved to sustained community-driven open-source development. **T**

Help AG launches Quantum 360 at GISEC 2026



Help AG, the cybersecurity arm of e&, has announced the launch of Quantum 360, a new portfolio of post-quantum cybersecurity services designed to help government entities, critical infrastructure and enterprises understand their cryptographic exposure and build a structured path towards quantum-safe security.

Help AG marked the debut of Quantum 360, launched in collaboration with e&, with an official ceremony at the company's booth at GISEC Global, attended by senior leadership including Abdulla Ebrahim Al Ahmed, Chief Government & VVIP Relations Officer, e& UAE, and Dr Aleksandar Valjarevic, recently appointed CEO of Help AG.

The launch comes as post-quantum readiness moves higher on the national cybersecurity agenda. The UAE's National Encryption Policy calls on government entities to establish clear and approved transition plans from traditional encryption methods to post-quantum cryptography.

Issued by the UAE Cybersecurity Council, the policy establishes national requirements for this transition. Dubai Electronic Security Center (DESC) has also introduced its Post-Quantum Cryptography Guideline to prepare Dubai's digital infrastructure for emerging quantum threats.

Dr Valjarevic said: "The quantum conversation is moving from 'when will it happen?' to 'are we ready when it does?' Organizations need to understand where cryptographic assets exist today, what is most exposed and what needs to change first. Quantum 360 is designed to turn that complexity into a clear, practical journey towards quantum readiness."

He added: "The UAE is already taking proactive steps towards post-quantum readiness. Our role is to help organizations translate that national direction into practical action, from understanding their cryptographic estate to building the roadmap and implementing the right level of protection for their environment." **T**

Ericsson meets Gulf demand with NetCloud Private for customer control in Wireless WAN operations

Ericsson has announced NetCloud Private, a new offering that delivers foundational cellular lifecycle-management into customer-controlled environments, giving organizations greater choice over the deployment and operation of Ericsson Wireless WAN infrastructure.

Designed for government agencies, critical-infrastructure operators and other regulated organizations that rely on 5G and wireless networks as a foundation for operations, NetCloud Private enables customers to centrally manage Ericsson Cradlepoint devices while keeping network-management and telemetry data within their environment.

Gartner predicts that by 2029, over 50% of multinational organizations will have a digital sovereignty strategy, a significant increase from less than 10% in 2025. This emerging trend creates a significant governance challenge for managing connectivity across vehicle fleets, remote fixed sites, and IoT networks where both operational agility and strict local regulation are non-negotiable.

NetCloud Private resolves this tradeoff by delivering core capabilities of the Ericsson NetCloud platform in a package that customers can host themselves. With its centralized management, NetCloud Private simplifies onboarding, configuration, monitoring, troubleshooting, and software updates for thousands of distributed routers from a single platform. This enables reliable cellular network deployments across public safety, defense, smart city, and critical infrastructure environments.

NetCloud Private is designed to support data-sovereignty requirements for local, on-premises management solutions while addressing the Middle East's strong emphasis on data protection and governance. The platform is loaded directly into the customer's datacenter and operates



Pankaj Malhotra, Head of Enterprise Product and Engineering, Enterprise Wireless Solutions, Ericsson

with relatively low storage, memory, and compute requirements.

Within the Gulf region, NetCloud Private is being deployed in the United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Qatar, with further deployments in progress for other Gulf countries. In the UAE, a communications service provider (CSP) will host the platform for multiple enterprise customers, while in KSA, the customer will

host it for its own operations.

Pankaj Malhotra, Head of Enterprise Product and Engineering, Enterprise Wireless Solutions, Ericsson, says: "NetCloud Private is a direct response to our customers who need the proven power of our Wireless WAN solutions in a customer-owned environment. By leveraging advanced data handling techniques and secure encryption capabilities, we provide a higher level of trust for governments, enterprises and international organizations. This offering empowers our customers to direct their own network management strategy, providing a trusted and scalable way to manage their networks while upholding data residency and compliance standards."

NetCloud Private's development has been shaped by the needs of organizations operating in highly controlled environments, including government agencies, regional service providers, public safety organizations, and critical infrastructure operators. ■

Dubai Electronic Security Center and Microsoft give Dubai Government a real-time view of its cybersecurity posture



Dubai Electronic Security Center (DESC) and Microsoft have announced a collaboration that gives DESC a real-time view of the security posture of Dubai Government entities, creating a safer digital environment for everyone the government serves.

Announced at GISEC Global 2026, the collaboration has produced a purpose-built Zero Trust assurance dashboard. Instead of relying on periodic, self-reported assessments that only capture a single moment in time, DESC can now see continuously updated evidence of how entities are performing against the Dubai Information Security Regulation (ISR) and give their IT teams clear steps to close any gaps.

The dashboard was co-developed by DESC in collaboration with Microsoft. DESC maintains the Dubai ISR, which sets the minimum information-security requirements for Dubai Government entities across 13 domains. The dashboard draws on Microsoft security signals that participating entities already use and turns

them into measurable evidence against those ISR controls. It surfaces things like risky identities, multifactor authentication and Conditional Access posture, privileged access, device compliance, active incidents and vulnerabilities.

Every one of the dashboard's 37 finding types tells an entity's IT team what the issue is, why it matters, where to verify it and how to fix it, in plain language. Guidance can be exported in Arabic and English.

Following the pilot phase, two Dubai Government entities have been onboarded so far with rollout happening across the Emirate to over 80 additional entities.

H.E Amer Sharaf, CEO of Cybersecurity Systems & Services Sector at Dubai Electronic Security Center, said: "Strengthening cyber resilience requires visibility that is timely, measurable and actionable. By bringing together evidence from the security controls already operating across participating government entities, this initiative helps us strengthen oversight

while giving entity teams clearer guidance on the actions required to address identified gaps. This supports our continued efforts to advance Zero Trust and strengthen cyber resilience across Dubai Government."

Amr Kamel, General Manager, Microsoft UAE, said: "Cyber resilience cannot rely on point-in-time visibility. As governments operate increasingly connected digital environments, security needs to be continuously measurable, actionable and built into how those environments are managed. Our collaboration with DESC shows what this looks like in practice: turning security signals entities already generate into a live view of their posture, faster remediation and stronger Zero Trust across Dubai Government."

The collaboration builds on long-standing work between Microsoft and DESC. Microsoft Azure, Microsoft 365 and Dynamics 365 have been certified against DESC's Cloud Service Provider Security Standard, and Microsoft operates cloud regions in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. ■



Huawei brings embedded intelligence and built-in resilience to GISEC GLOBAL 2026

With GISEC GLOBAL 2026 held under the theme “Cyber First: The New Digital Order,” Huawei presented its vision for the next phase of cybersecurity as the event’s Lead Strategic Partner. Huawei executives and experts are contributed to keynote and panel discussions on sovereign AI, cybersecurity talent and security operations, cyber resilience, and proactive defense as the region accelerates AI adoption and digital transformation amid an evolving threat landscape.

Corey Deng, Chief Cybersecurity and Privacy Officer, Huawei Middle East & Central Asia, presented “Enhancing Cyber Resilience in the AI Era” on the Main Stage, exploring how AI and quantum computing are changing the cybersecurity landscape and why resilience needs to be built in. Thomas Black, Chief Security Officer, Huawei Cloud Europe, presented “Sovereign AI: Control You Can Trust” on the Critical Infrastructure Stage, examining how meaningful control of data, infrastructure, models, operations and governance can support trusted AI for essential services.

Huawei also hosted the Cyber Resilience Workshop, themed “Securing the Digital Future: AI, Cloud and Cyber Resilience”, bringing together senior cybersecurity leaders, regulators and customers from across the Middle East and Central Asia. The workshop explored emerging cyber

environments. Xinghe AI Unified SASE brings intelligent, all-scenario network protection, while HiSec NG-SIEM enables all-domain security visibility, attack-chain correlation, alert noise reduction and automated response. Huawei’s data protection solutions further strengthen data resilience and service continuity.

The company also showcased how cybersecurity can be embedded into industry digitalization across critical sectors such as carrier networks, government, healthcare, and oil and gas, enabling organizations to innovate while maintaining security and operational resilience. Huawei highlighted its continued investment in cybersecurity, governance framework



Corey Deng, Chief Cybersecurity and Privacy Officer, Huawei Middle East & Central Asia, at GISEC GLOBAL 2026

risks, sovereign cloud strategies, AI-driven security threats, and the priorities shaping the next phase of digital resilience.

Integrated Security Across Cloud, Network, Data and Computing

At GISEC GLOBAL 2026, Huawei demonstrated how security can be embedded across cloud, computing, networks, and data to support secure AI adoption and digital transformation. Huawei Cloud combines AI capabilities with multi-layered security safeguards, while Huawei Confidential Computing solutions protect sensitive data at the hardware level, including in multi-tenant cloud

and trusted practices across its products, solutions and operations.

Corey Deng, Chief Cybersecurity and Privacy Officer, Huawei Middle East & Central Asia, said: “AI is transforming the way organizations are operating and how cyber threats are evolving and traditional protection alone is no longer sufficient. We believe intelligence needs to be embedded and resilience needs to be built in from the ground up. This is the vision we bring to GISEC GLOBAL 2026, and we look forward to working with governments, regulators, customers and partners across the region to build a more secure and resilient digital future together.”



SES's final three O3b mPOWER satellites successfully launched

SES has successfully launched its eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth O3b mPOWER satellites, further expanding its second-generation medium Earth orbit (MEO) system designed to offer high-performance connectivity services around the world.

The three satellites launched at 2:49 pm local time aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Space Launch Complex 40 (SLC-40) at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.

“This launch marks a defining milestone

for SES as we complete the O3b mPOWER constellation and further strengthen our MEO capabilities,” said Adel Al-Saleh, CEO of SES. “More importantly, it reinforces our ability to deliver resilient, secure and scalable connectivity for customers around the world, helping governments, enterprises, cloud providers and mobility customers meet their most critical needs. As customer demands continue to evolve, SES is focused on building smarter, more integrated solutions that bring together the strengths of multiple technologies and

orbits to deliver seamless connectivity worldwide.”

With this launch, SES reinforces its proven leadership in MEO while advancing its innovation roadmap. Once operational by mid-2027, the newly launched O3b mPOWER satellites will support:

- Expanded high-performance connectivity capacity for enterprise, government, mobility and telecom customers operating in underserved, remote, and demanding environments.
- Additional resiliency and flexibility across the O3b mPOWER system.
- Continued progress toward SES's next-generation MEO network strategy that sets the foundation for the next generation of sovereign, secure communications, space data relay and hosted payloads.

The three satellites launched will join the 10 O3b mPOWER spacecraft already in operation, offering services ranging from tens of Mbps to multiple gigabits per second of capacity to any site.

SES and Elveo Mobile to advance D2D services in Europe

SES and Elveo Mobile, the company that delivers mobile connectivity and elevated intelligence for a planet on the move, have announced the expansion of their collaboration to accelerate delivery of direct-to-device (D2D) services in Europe.

SES will leverage Elveo’s patented, proven and cost-effective D2D technology to enable seamless mobile roaming capabilities for European consumers, businesses, governments, institutional, and defense users.

To further this vision, SES and Elveo Mobile will collaborate to establish manufacturing capabilities and a robust supply chain in Europe for the productions of the Low-Earth Orbit (LEO) D2D satellites, using Elveo’s patented D2D satellite bus, payload

and software technology stack.

These LEO D2D satellites will form part of a unique multi-orbit architecture, combining Elveo’s LEO D2D network with SES’s geostationary (GEO) and Medium Earth Orbit (MEO) networks capable of delivering secure and reliable connectivity to European governments and institutions, including NATO.

European customers also stand to benefit from SES’s global distribution of Elveo’s D2D services, which use Elveo’s high-priority 2 GHz S-band spectrum rights and a global market access footprint currently covering more than one billion people.

“European consumers, commercial, and government users deserve resilient,

secure, multi-orbit connectivity, and SES is preparing to deliver that next layer of communications in combination with Elveo’s direct-to-device services,” said Adel Al-Saleh, Chief Executive Officer, SES. “Working with our partner Elveo will help bring critical D2D services to European customers on the timeline they demand.”

“SES is the right partner for Elveo to bring D2D services to Europe,” said Ramu Potarazu, CEO of Elveo. “Together, we are committed to delivering D2D connectivity for European customers and establishing the manufacturing capabilities needed to support them. By working closely with SES, we are confident we can accelerate access to critical D2D connectivity for European mobile operators and governments that depend on them.”

INTEGRASYS expands secure SATCOM and Space Defence capabilities

As satellite networks become more complex, multi-orbit and increasingly important to critical infrastructure and defence, INTEGRASYS is expanding its portfolio around network automation, spectrum management, resilient communications and space situational awareness.

The Spanish technology company brings more than 35 years of experience in satellite communications and today operates a global footprint across Europe, North America, Asia and Oceania. Its technologies cover areas including interference management, RF monitoring and geolocation, network automation, link-budget calculation, multi-orbit network management, PNT resilience and space operations.

For satellite operators and service providers, INTEGRASYS has developed a broad software portfolio aimed at simplifying increasingly complex networks. Solutions include BeamBudget for automated link-budget calculations; BestPath for selecting and orchestrating connectivity across multi-orbit networks; OrbiSat for space situational awareness and satellite tracking; and FlexCap and its network-management technologies for managing satellite capacity and infrastructure. The company is also developing capabilities for optical

communications, RF signal geolocation and resilient GNSS.

Growing Focus on Defence and Space Security

One of INTEGRASYS' most significant recent developments is its selection for two defence R&D projects in Luxembourg with a combined value of €2.89 million.

INTEGRASYS will lead DEPCON (Defence Communications Protection) alongside the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST). The project aims to develop an intelligent system capable of automatically detecting and responding to threats affecting terrestrial, radio and satellite communications.

The company is also participating in HYDRA, together with LMO Space and LIST. The initiative is focused on protecting strategic GEO satellites, combining optical and RF sensors, onboard intelligent processing and secure inter-satellite communications to identify and respond to threats including electronic interference.

Another major development came in September 2026, when INTEGRASYS and its European partners were selected under the

European Defence Fund for the EOBLINDING programme. The €6 million, 30-month programme is led by INTEGRASYS and aims to develop a mobile system for tracking space-based observation satellites and temporarily limiting their ability to observe sensitive areas. The project combines satellite tracking with RF and optical technologies and involves partners including Aldoria, Centrale Space Agency, Odysseus Space, TTI Norte and XYSENSING.

Expanding its European Footprint

INTEGRASYS has also continued its geographical expansion. In July, the company announced a new office in Berlin, strengthening its presence in one of Europe's key defence, aerospace and space markets. The operation is headed by Kristian Kuhlmann, Head of Germany and Director of Sales, and will focus on customer engagement, technical collaboration and partnerships across Germany and Central Europe.

The expansion complements INTEGRASYS' European R&D presence, including specialized centres in Luxembourg, the UK, France, Ukraine and Germany, while positioning the company closer to European programmes addressing resilient communications,

electronic warfare, spectrum superiority and space security.

From Automation to AI-Driven Networks

Beyond defence, INTEGRASYS continues to invest in the technologies expected to shape future commercial satellite networks. Its INDISPENSATBLE R&D programme, for example, explores digital twins for advanced 5G and non-terrestrial networks, combining RF and optical satellite links with AI-based optimization, predictive analysis and automated decision-making.

This direction reflects a broader shift across the satellite industry: away from individually managed GEO networks towards highly automated architectures spanning GEO, MEO and LEO satellites, terrestrial networks and eventually optical connectivity. For operators, the challenge is increasingly not simply providing capacity, but dynamically monitoring, protecting and optimizing connectivity across multiple networks.

That transition puts software, automation, spectrum intelligence and interoperability at the centre of the ground segment — areas that have become increasingly important to INTEGRASYS' technology roadmap.

INTEGRASYS Heads to Dubai

INTEGRASYS will bring these capabilities to SATExpo Middle East 2026 in Dubai from October 5–7, where the company is scheduled to exhibit at the Dubai Exhibition Centre, Expo City Dubai. Its showcase will focus on resilient communications, RF monitoring, interference detection, geolocation and advanced satellite operations, with CEO Álvaro Sánchez García de Viedma among the company representatives attending the event.

As satellite and terrestrial networks converge and governments and commercial operators place greater emphasis on resilience and security, INTEGRASYS is positioning its software portfolio around a common objective: making increasingly complex communications and space infrastructure easier to monitor, automate, optimize and protect. ■



Eutelsat procures 229 additional OneWeb LEO satellites from Airbus

Eutelsat announced at the International Space Summit in Paris an important step in assuring and enhancing service continuity of its OneWeb constellation, with plans to procure 229 additional OneWeb Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites from Airbus Defence and Space.

Eutelsat has signed an Authorisation to Proceed (ATP) with Airbus Defence and Space covering initial industrial activities for the 229 satellites. They are planned in addition to the 440 satellites already procured from Airbus, bringing the total of new OneWeb satellites with Airbus to 669.

With the first satellites from the existing order expected to be delivered next quarter, the additional 229 satellites will enable Eutelsat to continue progressively replenishing and expanding OneWeb through 2034, securing continuity of service while unlocking additional capacity and capabilities for existing and new customers.

The additional satellites will include advanced digital channelisers to enhance onboard processing, efficiency and flexibility, as well as capabilities to embark hosted payloads.

The procurement of these satellites, for an estimated investment of €1 billion, is fully consistent with Eutelsat's financial framework, and does not alter its capital expenditure plan up to FY 2029.

The investment marks a further step in Eutelsat's long-term ambition for LEO. Eutelsat is the only European operator of a

fully operational global LEO network, and the plans announced today reflect its strong confidence in OneWeb, the growth potential of the LEO market and the expanding role of satellite connectivity worldwide.

Looking ahead, Eutelsat will build on this position through IRIS², leading the design, deployment and operation of its LEO segment, whose commercial Ku-band constellation is expected to be operational by mid-2032. Building on the success of OneWeb, IRIS² will provide Eutelsat with access to more than twice OneWeb's current capacity along with next-generation capabilities.

Together, the continued expansion of OneWeb and the deployment of IRIS² create a powerful and complementary roadmap for Eutelsat's LEO growth -- OneWeb delivering global connectivity today and expanding through the next decade, and IRIS² providing the next generation of European sovereign connectivity.

Jean-François Fallacher, Chief Executive Officer of Eutelsat, said: "This is an exciting next step for OneWeb and for Eutelsat's LEO strategy. With the first satellites from the 440 due for delivery and launch soon, our replenishment programme is moving forward. The planned addition of 229 more satellites will further strengthen OneWeb, while IRIS² will bring significant new capacity and capabilities. Together, they give us a powerful roadmap to serve our customers, grow our LEO business and reinforce our role at the heart of Europe's sovereign connectivity future." ■

International seminar on regulations and satellite networks development in Central Asia



On 8–9 September 2026, Intersputnik and ITU, with the support of the Communications Administration of the Kyrgyz Republic, held a training seminar “Satellite Communications: Regulatory and Technical Aspects” in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan). The event was hosted by the I. Razzakov Kyrgyz State Technical University (KSTU).

The relevance of the event stems from the growing role of satellite technologies in ensuring global communication and universal connectivity, which has led to an increased demand for highly qualified employees in this rapidly evolving sector. The organisation of the training seminar on satellite communications in Bishkek became possible after signing a cooperation agreement on

building industry capacity and digital skills between Intersputnik and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in November 2025 at the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25).

At the opening of the seminar, welcoming remarks were made by Mirlan Chynybaev, Chancellor of the I. Razzakov Kyrgyz State Technical University; Altynbek Toktorbaev, Chairman of the Communications Regulation and Supervision Service under the Ministry of Digital Development and Innovative Technologies of the Kyrgyz Republic and Chairman of the Intersputnik Board; MKsenia Drozdova, Director General of Intersputnik; and Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of the ITU

Telecommunication Development Bureau.

The first session of the seminar focused on the legal framework for satellite communications regulation, licensing and spectrum management. It was moderated by Andrey Kirillovich, Director for Strategy, Marketing and Business Development at Intersputnik. The session addressed international cooperation on capacity building in satellite technologies, preparations for the 2027 World Radiocommunication Conference, national frequency assignment issues and regulatory specifics of maritime and aeronautical satellite communications.

Besides Andrey Kirillovich, the session featured presentations by Viktor Strelets,

Chairman of ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) Study Group 4 (SG 4); Alexander Klyucharev, Senior Radiocommunication Engineer in the Space Services Department of the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau; Vladislav Beregovsky, Radiocommunication Engineer in the Space Services Department of the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau; and Andrey Kushev, Technical Expert from the Terrestrial Services Department of the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau.

The second session of the seminar was dedicated to the theory and practice of electromagnetic compatibility in satellite systems. Presentations were given on protecting geostationary networks from potential interference caused by non-geostationary systems, the electromagnetic compatibility of IoT devices, spectrum analysis, inter-system interference and spectrum management challenges for developing countries. Speakers at the session included Valery Tikhvinsky, Visiting Professor at the International Information Technology University (IITU, Almaty); Viktor Strelets, Chairman of ITU-R Study Group 4; Dias Asanov, Lead Expert at the Radio Frequency Spectrum Division of the Radiocommunication Department, Communications Regulation and Supervision Service under the Ministry of Digital Development and Innovation Technologies of the Kyrgyz Republic; and Aftab Naghizada, Lead Regulatory Expert at the Space Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Azercosmos).

The sessions on the second day focused on modern satellite communication technologies, particularly their use for connecting the unconnected. Leading officials from the communications administrations and regulatory bodies of the Central Asia region countries shared their experiences with the attendees: Tilek Taalaibekov, Head of the Radiocommunications Department at the Communications Regulation and Supervision Service under the Ministry of Digital Development and Innovative



Technologies of the Kyrgyz Republic; Sandugash Khalelova, Chief Expert of the Communications Licensing Department at the Telecommunications Committee of the Ministry of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Aftab Naghizada, Lead Regulatory Expert at Azercosmos; Makhmadi Ismoilov, Deputy Director of the Centre for Digital Development and Satellite Communications of the Republic of Tajikistan; and Igor Shchetko, Project Coordinator at the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau.

At the conclusion of the two-day seminar, a round-table discussion was held on the implementation of satellite communication technologies in the countries of the region.

The event was attended by representatives of government bodies responsible for ICT development, regulators, satellite operators, companies and organisations utilising satellite technologies, as well as academic and research institutions.

“Seminar attendees gained a significant amount of up-to-date knowledge and skills necessary for the effective use of satellite technologies to bridge the digital divide. The dialogue and exchange of experience among experts enable regional cooperation to reach a new

level and become a significant factor in establishing an appropriate national regulatory framework and implementing joint international projects,” stated Intersputnik Director General Ksenia Drozdova. “As part of implementing the signed cooperation agreement, Intersputnik and ITU will continue to combine their efforts and expertise to train qualified personnel for the benefit of their member countries.”

Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau, mentioned that the seminar organized by ITU and Intersputnik is an important milestone in the implementation of the joint project on capacity building in satellite communications.

“This seminar has indeed reinforced the need, importance and value of regional cooperation. CIS region countries share spectrum resources and many common connectivity challenges. For that reason, close coordination on the use of radio-frequency spectrum and orbital resources is essential, requiring strong cooperation between administrations, international organisations and industry. Such cooperation will lead to better use of available resources and create conditions for further expansion of connectivity”, he added. **■**



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