



AsiaSat Selects Zenit Rocket for AsiaSat 5 Launch

Hong Kong, 9th May, 2006... Asia's leading satellite operator Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited (AsiaSat) announced the signing of a launch contract with Sea Launch Company, L.L.C. for the launch of AsiaSat 5 aboard a Zenit-3SLB rocket on the Land Launch system, scheduled for the second half of 2008 from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

AsiaSat 5 is designed to replace AsiaSat 2 at the orbital location of 100.5 degrees East. It is a Space Systems/Loral 1300 series satellite with 26 C-band and 14 Ku-band transponders and an estimated operational life of 15 years. AsiaSat 5's C-band footprint will offer an extensive pan-Asian coverage and its high power Ku-band beams will focus on both East and South Asia, with a steerable beam that will cover anywhere within AsiaSat 5's geographic coverage.

"We are pleased to have completed this major milestone in our procurement of AsiaSat 5. The Land Launch Zenit-3SLB rocket is based on a mature, flight-proven design; it is a highly reliable launch vehicle that offers the schedule assurance that meets our requirements for a 2008 launch," said Peter Jackson, Chief Executive Officer of AsiaSat.

About AsiaSat

AsiaSat, the leading regional satellite operator in Asia, serves over two-thirds of the world's population with its three satellites, AsiaSat 2 at 100.5°E, AsiaSat 3S at 105.5°E and AsiaSat 4 at 122.2°E. The AsiaSat satellite system provides services to both the broadcast and telecommunications industries. Over 240 television channels and 130 radio channels are now delivered by the Company's satellites, reaching over 96 million households, with more than 360 million viewers across the Asia Pacific region. Many telecommunications customers use AsiaSat for services such as public telephone networks, private VSAT networks and high speed Internet and multimedia services. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Asia Satellite Telecommunications Holdings Limited, listed on both the Hong Kong (SEHK: 1135HK) and New York (NYSE: SAT) stock exchanges. For more information, please visit www.asiasat.com

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Statements in this press release are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. The Reform Act provides a "safe harbour" for certain forward-looking statements so long as this information is identified as forward-looking and is accompanied by meaningful cautionary statements identifying important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected in the information. When used in this press release, the words "estimate", "plan", "project", "anticipate", "expect", "intend", "outlook", and other similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements and information. Actual results may differ materially from anticipated results as a result of certain risks and uncertainties which are more specifically set forth in AsiaSat's Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended 31st December, 2004 on file with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. These risks and uncertainties include but are not limited to (1) risks associated with technology, including delayed launches, launch failures and in-orbit failures, (2) regulatory risks, and (3) litigation and market risks. The foregoing list of important factors is not exclusive. Furthermore, AsiaSat operates in an industry sector where securities values may be volatile and may be influenced by economic and other factors beyond AsiaSat's control.