



1988-2008 **20** YEARS

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**Hong Kong, 23 September 2008**

In response to media reports on ProtoStar-I's recent announcement of an agreement with the INTERSPUTNIK International Organisation of Space Communications (Intersputnik) regarding its use of the orbital position of 98.5°E. Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited (AsiaSat) as a close neighbour of ProtoStar-I has noted these media reports and the fact that it has been stated that this new agreement will make the required ITU (International Telecommunication Union) coordination process easier for ProtoStar-I, we would therefore like to make the following clarifications:

- AsiaSat has the AsiaSat 2 satellite in operation and AsiaSat 5 being constructed as the AsiaSat 2 replacement due for launch in 2009, at 100.5°E. AsiaSat has filings with the ITU for its satellites operating and planned at 100.5°E dated as early as 14 November 1991 giving AsiaSat a very senior priority of the use of our filed frequencies. Filings for this orbital position have been successfully coordinated according to the ITU regulations are on the Master International Frequency Register (MIFR) which provides the ultimate international protection of the use of the frequencies in the relevant filings.
  
- ProtoStar-I, launched on 7 July 2008 is presently located at the vicinity of 98.5°E, has not completed the orbital coordination process with its neighbours. In accordance with the procedures stipulated by the ITU Radio Regulations a satellite operator with a lower priority filing in the unplanned Fixed Satellite Services (FSS) is required to seek coordination with neighbouring satellite operators that have higher priority filings. Completion of this coordination process is required in order to provide protection to the filings with higher priority.

- Intersputnik has filings with the ITU for the use of 98.5°E orbital slot (priority date: 29 December 2005), a much lower priority than the filing sought earlier by ProtoStar-I from the Administration of Singapore (priority date: 27 December 2001). The Singaporean Government has since announced that it is no longer involved with this satellite. This lower priority filing date means that ProtoStar-I is now required to coordinate on an increased number of filings than that requires under Singapore. Under the ITU Radio Regulations, ProtoStar-I is required to obtain the prior agreement of a number of Administrations including China (the Administration for AsiaSat, APSTAR, SINOSAT, Chinasat all of which have filings close to 98.5°E), Russia (the Administration for Express AM33) and the UAE (the Administration for Thuraya 3) which have higher priority than Intersputnik's before ProtoStar-I can bring any interfering frequency into service at 98.5°E.
  
- Due to overlapping geographic coverage and frequencies, ProtoStar-I will have to operate on a non-interfering basis if it has to operate at 98.5°E. This could mean that it may have to operate at very low power levels and use larger antennas, or even switch off the overlapping transponders in order to accommodate other users with higher priority.
  
- At 100.5°E, AsiaSat has the AsiaSat 2 satellite in operation since 1996. AsiaSat also has AsiaSat 5 being built for launch in 2009. AsiaSat 5 will provide expanded coverage, and more frequencies for business growth. ProtoStar-I will have to accommodate not just AsiaSat 2 but also AsiaSat 5 and any other future AsiaSat satellites under all AsiaSat's filings with higher priority than Intersputnik's in accordance with the ITU frequency coordination process.
  
- To safeguard the long term business growth and its traffic on AsiaSat 2 and beyond, AsiaSat, working under its own Administration, China, has urged ProtoStar-I and its new Administration Belarus (Intersputnik's relevant Administration) that no emissions with respect to ProtoStar-I are authorised until the required coordination is completed with the neighbouring satellites, operating in accordance with the provisions of the Radio Regulations. In addition, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) of China

has stated in a letter dated 27 August 2008 that China will hold anybody authorising operation that causes interference into Chinese networks operating in accordance with the Radio Regulations economically responsible. In the event that ProtoStar-I enters into service without completing coordination, AsiaSat through its Administration will enforce its rights under the ITU Radio Regulations and demand ProtoStar-I's Administration to take action to eliminate any interference caused by them, this will mean that the interference causing transponders will have to be shut down.

- # # # -

#### ***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°E. The AsiaSat satellite system provides services to both the broadcast and telecommunications industries. Some 300 television 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, a company listed on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (SEHK: 1135). For more information, please visit [www.asiasat.com](http://www.asiasat.com)

#### ***Media inquiries:***

##### **Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited**

Sabrina Cubbon, General Manager Marketing	Winnie Pang, Manager, Corporate Affairs
Tel: (852) 2500 0899	Tel: (852) 2500 0880
Mobile: (852) 9097 1210	Email: <a href="mailto:wpang@asiasat.com">wpang@asiasat.com</a>
Email: <a href="mailto:scubbon@asiasat.com">scubbon@asiasat.com</a>	

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, 2007 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.