



**ASIA SATELLITE TELECOMMUNICATIONS HOLDINGS LIMITED
ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTERIM RESULTS**

FOR THE SIX MONTHS TO 30 JUNE 2009

HONG KONG, 26 August 2009 -- Asia Satellite Telecommunications Holdings Limited ('AsiaSat' - SEHK: 1135), Asia's leading satellite operator, today announces its 2009 interim results for the six months ended 30 June 2009.

LEADERSHIP IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Financial Summary:

	HK\$	YoY*	Excluding One-Time Receipt	YoY*
	HK\$		HK\$	
Turnover	544,861,000	+12%	533,733,000	+10%
Profit attributable to equity holders	253,488,000	+13%	242,360,000	+9 %
Earnings per share	0.65	+14%	0.62	+9 %
Dividend per share	0.08	no change		

* Year-on-year comparison

Operational Highlights:

- AsiaSat 5 successfully launched. In-orbit testing currently under way
- Overall utilisation rate increased to 64% from 60% as at end of 2008
- Subsidiary SpeedCast recorded revenue and profit growth
- New joint venture with EchoStar to provide DTH television in Asia
- Honored with various industry awards for service excellence
- Deregistered from US Securities and Exchange Commission

AsiaSat's Chairman, Sherwood P. Dodge, said, "The first half of 2009 has brought many positive signs. We are pleased with the performance of our core business. The launch of AsiaSat 5 embodies our long-term commitment to satellite communication in the Asia Pacific region. Going forward, we will continue to set industry standards for reliability and service excellence as we benefit from the strong growth fundamentals of the Asian satellite market."

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ASIA SATELLITE TELECOMMUNICATIONS HOLDINGS LIMITED

(Incorporated in Bermuda with limited liability)

Stock Code: 1135

Announcement of Unaudited Results for the six months ended 30 June 2009

Chairman's Statement

Leadership in challenging times

Core business remains stable

I am pleased to report that AsiaSat's core business has continued to remain stable despite a difficult global environment. As noted in the 2008 annual report, the satellite industry is not immune from the effects of the global downturn. However, we remain cautiously optimistic about the medium-term future.

In March, AsiaSat was awarded "Best Asian Satellite Carrier" at the 2009 Telecom Asia Awards. Also in March, AsiaSat's Chief Executive Officer Peter Jackson was inducted into the Society of Satellite Professionals International's Hall of Fame, in recognition of his three decades of work and executive leadership in the telecommunications and satellite industry, half of which has been spent at AsiaSat. In June, AsiaSat was recognised as "Satellite Service Provider of the Year in Asia Pacific" at the Frost & Sullivan Asia Pacific ICT Awards, the first time a satellite carrier has received this award twice.

While our first half year performance was slightly higher than that of last year, we expect our overall 2009 performance to be similar to that of 2008. The costs associated with the launch of AsiaSat 5 combined with a further drop in investment income, have put additional pressure on our bottom line. While we have experienced a slight increase in renewals and new customers in the first half year, we are also seeing many of our major customers slowing their expansion plans as the global economic downturn's effect on advertising emerges in our industry.

The highlight of the second half year will be bringing AsiaSat 5, our newest satellite, into service. AsiaSat 5 was successfully launched in August and will finish testing in September. The launch signals our long-term commitment to our partners and investors and our underlying optimism about the fundamentals of the Asian satellite industry. AsiaSat 5 will help us maintain our leading position as Asia's premier satellite provider, a position recognised by our peers this year through a series of industry awards.

The fundamentals of our business remain robust, and as market leaders we are well-placed to navigate through the current uncertainty and capitalise on the eventual recovery.

Interim Results

Turnover

Turnover for the first half of 2009 was HK\$545 million (2008: HK\$487 million), an increase of HK\$58 million, amounting to some 12% over the last period. It was significant in that, despite the global economic crisis in late 2008, the Company was still able to maintain encouraging growth in turnover of our core business which amounted to around HK\$32 million, primarily attributable to increased capacity requirements by certain customers. Our wholly owned subsidiary, SpeedCast Holdings Limited (“SpeedCast”) also reported continued growth in revenue of around HK\$16 million in the first half of the year due to strong demand from its customers.

The one-off termination payments of around HK\$11 million received from certain Chinese video customers, that terminated their contracts in prior years, contributed to the remaining increase of HK\$10 million in revenue.

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses, excluding depreciation and amortisation, in the first half of 2009 amounted to HK\$158 million (2008: HK\$136 million). The increase was mainly due to an increase in legal and professional fees by HK\$12 million as a result of pursuing various business opportunities to broaden our business scope. In addition, an impairment provision of HK\$6 million for certain assets of a subsidiary was made following a new business strategy in respect of Direct-to-Home satellite television service which is described below.

Profit

The profit attributable to equity holders during the period was HK\$253 million (2008: HK\$224 million), an increase of 13%. The increase mainly resulted from our strong performance in revenue, an increase of HK\$58 million, and a substantial reduction in depreciation expenses of HK\$30 million as AsiaSat 2 was fully depreciated in early 2009. However, the profit growth was partially impacted by the reduction in interest income of approximately HK\$23 million owing to the continued decrease in bank interest rates on deposits.

Cashflow

During the period, the Group generated a net cash outflow of HK\$424 million (2008: outflow of HK\$44 million) after paying capital expenditure of HK\$666 million (2008: HK\$239 million) and dividends of HK\$121 million (2008: HK\$121 million). As at 30 June 2009, the Group reported a cash balance of HK\$2,021 million (31 December 2008: HK\$2,445 million). The Group continues to be debt free.

Dividend

The Board has resolved to declare an interim dividend of HK\$0.08 per share (2008: HK\$0.08), the same as last year. The interim dividend is payable on or about 6 November 2009 to equity holders on the share register as of 10 October 2009. The share register will be closed from 3 to 10 October 2009, both days inclusive.

Corporate Developments

Deregistering from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)

In our 2008 Annual Report, we noted our intention voluntarily to deregister from the SEC as the benefits of keeping the Company registered did not justify the associated costs. We filed the deregistration application with the SEC for deregistration on 10 March 2009. Following the completion of the 90-day waiting period, the Company's periodic and disclosure obligations under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 terminated and the Company is no longer a SEC registered company.

Operations Review

TWO NEW SATELLITES

AsiaSat 5

Our new satellite, AsiaSat 5, was launched successfully from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, on 12 August 2009. The satellite was launched on a Proton Breeze M rocket supplied by International Launch Services Inc. in the place of the originally selected Land Launch rocket, whose company, Sea Launch had filed voluntary petitions for relief under Chapter 11 in the United States Bankruptcy Court on 22 June 2009. We had made milestone payments amounting to a total of HK\$246 million over the years to Sea Launch prior to their filing under Chapter 11. This amount has been classified under capital expenditure as part of the AsiaSat 5 project cost. We are looking at our available options against Sea Launch as it is still at the early stage of the US court proceedings.

Following separation from the launch vehicle, AsiaSat 5 has been maneuvered to an orbital location for in-orbit testing. Solar arrays, reflectors, momentum wheels and thrusters have been activated and their performance verified. In addition, the transponder performance verification process is currently underway. AsiaSat 5 will replace AsiaSat 2 at the orbital location of 100.5°E and will be in service fully by the third week of September 2009 according to our schedule. AsiaSat 5 has a special feature in that certain transponders can be configured to prevent unauthorised uplinking to the satellite's transponders from areas outside of China.

AsiaSat 5C

The Board resolved to proceed with construction of AsiaSat 5C, which primarily remains a backup for AsiaSat 5 in the event of a commissioning failure. AsiaSat 5C is being built by Space Systems/Loral on an SS/L 1300 series satellite platform with performance similar to that of AsiaSat 5, and the satellite is designed for the provision of fixed satellite services for television broadcast, telephone networks, and VSAT networks for broadband multimedia services across the Asia Pacific Region. When AsiaSat 5 is successfully brought into service, the Company will consider options, such as converting AsiaSat 5C for other possible uses, including replacing AsiaSat 3S at the orbital location of 105.5°E.

IN-ORBIT SATELLITES

During the first six months of 2009, AsiaSat's three in-orbit satellites operated well and continued to deliver excellent service to our customers.

The Group's fleet comprises AsiaSat 2, AsiaSat 3S, and AsiaSat 4, which are located in geo-stationary orbital slots over the Asian landmass and provide a platform for one of the largest television audiences in the world. This presents AsiaSat customers with unparalleled coverage across two-thirds of the world's population.

AsiaSat 2 was launched in November 1995 and is positioned at 100.5°E. This satellite carries a payload of 24 C-band and 9 Ku-band transponders and its overall utilisation rate as at 30 June 2009 was 54% (31 December 2008: 53%).

AsiaSat 3S was launched in March 1999 and is positioned at 105.5°E. This satellite carries a payload of 28 C-band and 16 Ku-band transponders and its overall utilisation rate as at 30 June 2009 was 68% (31 December 2008: 69%).

AsiaSat 4 was launched in April 2003 and is positioned at 122°E. This satellite carries 28 C-band and 20 Ku-band transponders including four Hong Kong BSS (broadcast satellite service) transponders. Its overall utilisation rate as at 30 June 2009 was 66% (31 December 2008: 58%).

The total number of transponders on the Company's satellites leased and sold as at 30 June 2009 was 80 (31 December 2008: 76) with an overall utilisation rate of 64% (31 December 2008: 60%). This figure includes the four BSS transponders provided for our DTH (direct-to-home) service.

CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS

In the first six months of 2009, a number of new contracts were secured to the total value of HK\$164 million (2008: HK\$319 million) and renewed contracts were valued at HK\$250 million (2008: HK\$355 million). Together, these amounted to HK\$414 million (2008: HK\$674 million), primarily coming from the renewal of a number of existing major contracts.

MARKET REVIEW

As noted in our 2008 annual report, economic downturns have historically had a delayed and muted effect on the satellite industry. While the industry as a whole performed well in the first half of 2009, we will remain vigilant as we move into the second half. Already, we are seeing some customers deferring their expansion plans, which will impact demand going forward. This is also taking place within the context of continued excess transponder capacity in the region.

The broadcasting industry's satellite requirements are traditionally more recession-proof than other sectors of the economy, and remain our primary demand driver. Today, AsiaSat serves over 100 broadcasters, delivering some 300 television channels across the Asia Pacific region.

We continue to take encouragement from the increasing regional demand for High Definition Television (HDTV), showcased by last year's Olympic Games. HDTV represents a very promising growth prospect for AsiaSat, and as Asian demand for HDTV catches up with the more developed US and European markets, we will be well placed to prosper.

The proliferation of new distribution platforms such as Direct-to-Home (DTH) satellite television and Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) across Asia gives further grounds for medium-term optimism. These new platforms have encouraged the launch of new television channels in Asia even as the downturn takes hold. While there are still regulatory barriers to free competition in several countries' DTH markets, we believe that governments will in due course bow to commercial considerations and lift restrictions on foreign investment, further spurring market growth.

We also believe that the inherent advantages satellite has over terrestrial systems in broadcast, internet backbone connections and mobile telephony will drive growth in the long term, particularly as the governments of developing nations look to enhance communications infrastructure in the more remote areas for the benefit of their citizens.

Business Development

SUBSIDIARIES

SpeedCast

SpeedCast Holdings Limited ("SpeedCast"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of AsiaSat, provides two-way very small aperture terminal (VSAT) services and broadband backbone access to customers in countries across Asia and beyond.

For the first six months of 2009, the turnover of SpeedCast was HK\$71 million (2008: HK\$55 million), an increase of 29%. The company recorded a net profit of HK\$5 million (2008: HK\$2 million loss). We are pleased with this encouraging performance.

Joint venture with EchoStar

In June, AsiaSat formed a joint venture with EchoStar Corporation, a leading provider of end-to-end pay TV delivery systems and a designer and manufacturer of equipment for satellite, IPTV, cable, terrestrial and consumer electronics markets, for the delivery of a Direct-to-Home (DTH) satellite television service to Taiwan and other targeted regions in Asia, starting from the second half of 2009. Our DTH-focused subsidiary, Skywave TV Limited, which is 80% held by the Company, will now be incorporated into our joint venture with EchoStar.

Outlook

The first half of 2009 has brought many positive signs. We are pleased with the performance of our core business. Overall utilisation has also improved throughout the period under review. Our subsidiary SpeedCast performed well, and we look forward to a successful partnership with EchoStar in the DTH project. Our fleet has continued to deliver reliable, high-quality service and our industry leadership has been recognised by our peers through a number of awards.

The effects of the global downturn are starting to be felt by our industry. However, we are confident that our core financial strength, debt-free balance sheet and market-leading position will allow us to benefit from the eventual market recovery. We will continue to look at organic growth and acquisition opportunities as and when they arise.

The launch of AsiaSat 5 embodies our long-term commitment to satellite communication in the Asia Pacific region. Going forward, we will continue to set industry standards for reliability and service excellence as we benefit from the strong growth fundamentals of the Asian satellite market.

Acknowledgement

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. MI for his leadership and valuable contribution to the Company for serving as Chairman of the Board for the past two years. Mr. MI is now assuming the role as Deputy Chairman in accordance with the biennial rotation arrangement.

In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation of the support from our customers, suppliers and shareholders. I would also like to thank my fellow directors for their valuable contribution and the staff members of the Group for their commitment and dedicated services throughout the period.

Sherwood P. DODGE
Chairman

Hong Kong, 26 August 2009

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

		Unaudited	
		Six months ended 30 June	
Note		2009	2008
		HK\$'000	HK\$'000
	Sales	544,861	487,407
	Cost of services	<u>(177,637)</u>	<u>(210,831)</u>
	Gross profit	367,224	276,576
	Other gains, net	12,722	35,075
	Administrative expenses	<u>(101,728)</u>	<u>(77,288)</u>
	Operating profit	278,218	234,363
	Finance costs	<u>(56)</u>	<u>(59)</u>
	Profit before income tax	278,162	234,304
	Income tax expense	<u>(26,358)</u>	<u>(10,901)</u>
	Profit and total comprehensive income for the period	<u>251,804</u>	<u>223,403</u>
Profit and total comprehensive income attributable to:			
	- equity holders of the Company	253,488	223,872
	- minority interests	<u>(1,684)</u>	<u>(469)</u>
		<u>251,804</u>	<u>223,403</u>
		HK\$	HK\$
		per share	per share
Earnings per share for profit attributable to the equity holders of the Company			
	- basic	<u>0.65</u>	<u>0.57</u>
	- diluted	<u>0.65</u>	<u>0.57</u>
		HK\$'000	HK\$'000
	Interim dividend	<u>31,296</u>	<u>31,296</u>

Note 1 to note 7 form an integral part of these condensed consolidated interim financial statements.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	As at	
	30 June 2009	31 December 2008
	Note Unaudited HK\$'000	Audited HK\$'000
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	3,268,550	2,681,287
Leasehold land and land use rights	22,158	22,449
Intangible assets	38,675	39,921
Unbilled receivable	139,890	146,694
Amount paid to tax authority	204,810	204,810
Total non-current assets	3,674,083	3,095,161
Current assets		
Inventories	3,268	2,767
Trade and other receivables	303,362	234,614
Cash and cash equivalents	2,021,284	2,445,471
Total current assets	2,327,914	2,682,852
Total assets	6,001,997	5,778,013
EQUITY		
Equity attributable to equity holders of the Company		
Ordinary shares	39,120	39,120
Reserves		
Retained earnings	5,209,361	5,076,930
Other reserves	13,982	12,481
	5,262,463	5,128,531
Minority interests	1,528	3,212
Total equity	5,263,991	5,131,743
LIABILITIES		
Non-current liabilities		
Deferred income tax liabilities	182,166	172,631
Deferred revenue	94,653	102,179
Obligations under finance leases	-	17
Other payables	1,958	1,910
Total non-current liabilities	278,777	276,737
Current liabilities		
Construction payables	56,031	9,634
Other payables and accrued expenses	144,413	119,452
Deferred revenue	159,397	149,601
Obligations under finance leases	53	87
Current income tax liabilities	99,214	90,638
Dividend payable	121	121
Total current liabilities	459,229	369,533
Total liabilities	738,006	646,270
Total equity and liabilities	6,001,997	5,778,013
Net current assets	1,868,685	2,313,319
Total assets less current liabilities	5,542,768	5,408,480

Note 1 to note 7 form an integral part of these condensed consolidated interim financial statements.

Notes

1. Independent review

The unaudited condensed consolidated accounts of the Company and its subsidiary companies for the six months ended 30 June 2009 have been reviewed by the Company's auditor, PricewaterhouseCoopers, in accordance with Hong Kong Standard on Review Engagements 2410 "Review of Interim Financial Information Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity" issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The auditor's independent review report will be included in the Interim Report to shareholders.

2. Basis of preparation

These condensed consolidated interim financial statements for the six months ended 30 June 2009 have been prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Accounting Standard ("HKAS") 34, 'Interim financial reporting'. These condensed consolidated interim financial statements should be read in conjunction with the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2008 which have been prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRS").

3. Accounting policies

The accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2008 as described in those annual financial statements.

Taxes on income in the interim periods are accrued using the tax rate that would be applicable to expected total annual earnings.

The following new standards and amendments to standards are mandatory for the first time for the financial year beginning 1 January 2009 and are relevant to the Group:

- HKAS 1 (revised), 'Presentation of financial statements'. The revised standard prohibits the presentation of items of income and expenses (that is 'non-owner changes in equity') in the statement of changes in equity, requiring 'non-owner changes in equity' to be presented separately from owner changes in equity. All 'non-owner changes in equity' are required to be shown in a performance statement. Entities can choose whether to present one performance statement (the statement of comprehensive income) or two statements (the income statement and statement of comprehensive income). The Group has selected to present one statement of comprehensive income. The interim financial statements have been prepared under the revised disclosure requirements.
- HKFRS 8, 'Operating segments'. HKFRS 8 replaces HKAS 14, 'Segment reporting'. It requires a 'management approach' under which segment information is presented on the same basis as that used for internal reporting purposes. Operating segments are reported in a manner consistent with the internal reporting provided to the chief operating decision-maker. The chief operating decision-maker has been identified as the Chief Executive Officer who makes strategic decisions.
- Amendment to HKFRS 7, 'Financial instruments: disclosures'. The amendment increases the disclosure requirements about fair value measurement and amends the disclosure about liquidity risk. The Group will make additional relevant disclosures in its financial statements ending 31 December 2009.

The following new standards, amendments to standards and interpretations are mandatory for the first time for the financial year beginning 1 January 2009, but are not currently relevant for the Group:

- HKAS 23 (amendment), 'Borrowing costs'.
- HKFRS 2 (amendment), 'Share-based payment'.
- HKAS 32 (amendment), 'Financial instruments: presentation'.
- HK(IFRIC) 9 (amendment), 'Reassessment of embedded derivatives' and HKAS 39 (amendment), 'Financial instruments: recognition and measurement'.
- HK(IFRIC) 13, 'Customer loyalty programmes'.
- HK(IFRIC) 15, 'Agreements for the construction of real estate'.
- HK(IFRIC) 16, 'Hedges of a net investment in a foreign operation'.
- HKAS 39 (amendment), 'Financial instruments: Recognition and measurement'.

Notes

3. Accounting policies (Continued)

The following new standards, amendments to standards and interpretations have been issued, but are not effective for the financial year beginning 1 January 2009 and have not been early adopted:

HKAS 39 (Amendment)	Eligible Hedged Items ¹
HKFRS 3 (Revised)	Business Combinations ¹
HK(IFRIC) - Int 17	Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners ¹
HK(IFRIC) - Int 18	Transfers of Assets from Customers ¹
Amendment to HKFRS 2	Share-based Payments ¹
Amendment to HKFRS 5	Non-current Assets held for sale and discontinued operations ²
Amendment to HKFRS 8	Operating segments ²
Amendment to HKAS 1	Presentation of financial statements ²
Amendment to HKAS 7	Statement of cash flows ²
Amendment to HKAS 17	Leases ²
Amendment to HKAS 36	Impairment of assets ²
Amendment to HKAS 38	Intangible assets ¹
Amendment to HKAS 39	Embedded derivatives ²
Amendment to HK(IFRIC) 9	Reassessment of embedded derivatives ¹
Amendment to HK(IFRIC) 16	Hedges of a net investment in a foreign operation ¹

1 Effective for the Group for annual periods beginning on or after 1 July 2009

2 Effective for the Group for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2010

The Group is in the process of assessing the impact of these standards or interpretations and does not expect there will be material impact on the consolidated financial statements of the Group.

4. Sales and segment information

a) Sales:

The Group's sales are analysed as follows:

	Six months ended 30 June	
	2009	2008
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Income from provision of satellite transponder capacity		
- recurring	451,467	415,496
- non-recurring	11,128	1,425
Sales of satellite transponder capacity	8,291	12,246
Income from provision of broadband access service and sale of equipment	71,470	55,234
Other revenue	2,505	3,006
	544,861	487,407

b) Segment Information:

The chief operating decision maker has been identified as the Chief Executive Officer of the Group. The Chief Executive Officer reviews the Group's internal reporting in order to assess performance and allocate resources. Management has determined the operating segments based on the reports reviewed by the Chief Executive Officer, who considers the business from a product perspective. In other words, management assesses the performance based on a measure of profit after taxation of the following businesses:

- the operation, maintenance and provision of satellite telecommunication systems for broadcasting and telecommunication; and
- provision of broadband access services.

Other information provided to the Chief Executive Officer is measured in a manner consistent with that in the financial statements.

Notes

4. Sales and segment information (Continued)

b) Segment Information (continued)

The accounting policies of the reportable segments are the same as the Group's accounting policies.

Sales between segments are carried out at arm's length in a manner similar to transactions with third parties. The revenue from external parties reported to the Chief Executive Officer is measured in a manner consistent with that in the condensed consolidated interim statement of comprehensive income.

An analysis of the Group's reportable segments are as follows:

	2009			
	Provision of satellite telecommunication systems for broadcasting and telecommunication HK\$'000	Broadband access services HK\$'000	Inter-segment elimination HK\$'000	Consolidated HK\$'000
For the six months ended 30 June 2009				
Sales to external customers	461,441	71,470	-	532,911
Sales to a related party	9,445	-	-	9,445
Inter-segment sales	30,970	-	(30,970)	-
Other revenue	3,374	-	(869)	2,505
Total	<u>505,230</u>	<u>71,470</u>	<u>(31,839)</u>	<u>544,861</u>
Segment results	273,457	4,761	-	278,218
Finance costs	(44)	(12)	-	(56)
Profit before income tax	<u>273,413</u>	<u>4,749</u>	-	<u>278,162</u>
Income tax expenses	(26,358)	-	-	(26,358)
Profit for the period	<u>247,055</u>	<u>4,749</u>	-	<u>251,804</u>
Attributable to :				
- equity holders of the Company	248,739	4,749	-	253,488
- minority interests	(1,684)	-	-	(1,684)
	<u>247,055</u>	<u>4,749</u>	-	<u>251,804</u>
Depreciation and amortisation	<u>117,362</u>	<u>4,317</u>	-	<u>121,679</u>
Interest income	<u>12,241</u>	<u>7</u>	-	<u>12,248</u>
Capital expenditure	<u>704,309</u>	<u>7,442</u>	-	<u>711,751</u>
At 30 June 2009:				
Assets	<u>5,944,774</u>	<u>57,223</u>	-	<u>6,001,997</u>
Liabilities	<u>700,719</u>	<u>37,287</u>	-	<u>738,006</u>

Notes

4. Sales and segment information (Continued)

b) Segment Information (continued)

	2008			
	Provision of satellite telecommunication systems for broadcasting and telecommunication HK\$'000	Broadband access services HK\$'000	Inter-segment elimination HK\$'000	Consolidated HK\$'000
For the six months ended 30 June 2008				
Sales to external customers	428,699	55,234	-	483,933
Sales to a related party	468	-	-	468
Inter-segment sales	21,970	-	(21,970)	-
Other revenue	3,212	-	(206)	3,006
Total	454,349	55,234	(22,176)	487,407
Segment results	236,326	(1,963)	-	234,363
Finance costs	(22)	(37)	-	(59)
Profit before income tax	236,304	(2,000)	-	234,304
Income tax expenses	(10,901)	-	-	(10,901)
Profit for the period	225,403	(2,000)	-	223,403
Attributable to :				
- equity holders of the Company	225,872	(2,000)	-	223,872
- minority interests	(469)	-	-	(469)
	225,403	(2,000)	-	223,403
Depreciation and amortisation	148,400	3,625	-	152,025
Interest Income	35,047	63	-	35,110
Capital Expenditure	241,789	4,838	-	246,627
At 30 June 2008:				
Assets	5,602,128	44,614	-	5,646,742
Liabilities	713,279	32,162	-	745,441
At 31 December 2008:				
Assets	5,732,300	45,713	-	5,778,013
Liabilities	615,744	30,526	-	646,270

The Group is domiciled in Hong Kong. The result of its revenue from external customers in Hong Kong for the six months ended 30 June 2009 is HK\$123,826,000 (for the six months ended 30 June 2008: HK\$128,274,000), and the total of its revenue from external customers and a related party from other countries is HK\$421,035,000 (2008: HK\$359,133,000).

For the purpose of classification, the country where the customer is incorporated is deemed to be the source of sales. However, the Group's operating assets consist primarily of its satellites which are used, or are intended for use, for transmission to multiple geographical areas and therefore cannot be allocated between geographical segments. Accordingly, no geographical analysis of expenses, assets and liabilities has been presented.

For the six months ended 30 June 2009, revenues of approximately HK\$95,013,000 (for the six months ended 30 June 2008: HK\$97,134,000) are derived from a single external customer. These revenues are attributable to the provision of satellite telecommunication systems for broadcasting and telecommunication.

Notes

5. Operating profit

The following items have been credited/charged to the operating profit during the interim period:

	Six months ended 30 June	
	2009	2008
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Interest income	12,248	35,110
Gain/(Loss) on disposal of property, plant and equipment other than transponders	240	(35)
Others	234	-
Other gains, net	<u>12,722</u>	<u>35,075</u>
Salary and other benefits, including directors' remuneration	57,412	55,331
Contributions to retirement benefits schemes	3,046	2,852
Total staff costs	<u>60,458</u>	<u>58,183</u>
Auditors' remuneration	732	803
Provision for impairment		
- Intangible assets – Licences	1,166	-
- Property, plant and equipment	2,781	-
- Trade receivables	11,280	14,611
- Receivables and prepayment	1,943	-
Depreciation and amortisation		
- Intangible assets – Licences	80	81
- Property, plant and equipment	121,599	151,944
Operating leases		
- premises	4,666	2,970
- leasehold land & land use rights	291	291
Net exchange loss/(gain)	<u>1,543</u>	<u>(2,706)</u>

6. Income tax expense

A significant portion of the Group's profit is treated as earned outside Hong Kong and is not subject to Hong Kong profits tax. Hong Kong profits tax has been provided at the rate of 16.5% (2008: 16.5%) on the estimated assessable profit for the period.

Overseas tax, including the Foreign Enterprises Income Tax in the People's Republic of China, is calculated at 5% to 20% of the gross revenue earned in certain overseas jurisdictions.

	Six months ended 30 June	
	2009	2008
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Current income tax		
- Hong Kong profits tax	11,985	21,537
- Overseas taxation	4,838	4,270
Deferred income tax charge/(credit)	<u>9,535</u>	<u>(14,906)</u>
	<u>26,358</u>	<u>10,901</u>

The Group currently has a tax case in dispute with the Indian tax authorities.

Notes

7. Earnings per share

Basic

Basic earnings per share is calculated by dividing the profit attributable to equity holders of the Company by the weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue during the period.

	Six months ended 30 June	
	2009	2008
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Profit attributable to equity holders of the Company	253,488	223,872
Weighted average number of ordinary shares for the purpose of calculating basic earnings per share (in thousands)	390,503	390,957
Basic earnings per share (HK\$ per share)	0.65	0.57

The weighted average number of ordinary shares shown above has been arrived at after deducting the shares held under the share award scheme.

Diluted

	Six months ended 30 June	
	2009	2008
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Profit attributable to equity holders of the Company	253,488	223,872
Weighted average number of ordinary shares for the purpose of calculating basic earnings per share (in thousands)	390,503	390,957
Effect of unvested awarded shares (in thousands)	949	234
Weighted average number of ordinary shares for the purpose of calculating diluted earnings per share (in thousands)	391,452	391,191
Diluted earnings per share (HK\$ per share)	0.65	0.57

Notes to Editor

Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited (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 fleet provides services to both the broadcast and telecommunications industries. Over 300 television and 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 broadband 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). In March and June of this year, AsiaSat was selected the "Best Asian Satellite Carrier" and the "Satellite Service Provider of the Year in Asia Pacific" respectively by Telecom Asia magazine and Frost & Sullivan. For more information, please visit www.asiasat.com