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Israel launches commercial satellite to tap African market

Keith Stein, DC Space News Examiner, December 11, 2011

The Israeli-based company Spacecom launched a communications satellite on Sunday that will put them at the forefront of Africa's emerging satellite services market. The satellite, known as AMOS-5, will orbit at 17 degrees east longitude on the Earth's equator, a new orbital slot over Africa.

The satellite will feature a fixed pan-African C-band beam and three steerable Ku-band beams — all covering Africa with connectivity to Europe and the Middle East and supporting multiple transponders in both C-band and Ku-band.

The AMOS-5 satellite will offer Spacecom customers a wide range of satellite services, including:

- Direct-to-home broadcasting.
- VSAT communications and broadband Internet.
- Telephony services.
- Data trunking.
- Cellular backhaul.
- Video distribution.

Together with the AMOS-2 and the AMOS-3 satellites co-located at Spacecom's orbital slots at 4 degrees west longitude, the AMOS-5 satellite will give customers coverage over many of the world's fastest growing and highest-demand satellite markets in the Middle East, Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Africa.

AMOS-5 was launched aboard a Russian Proton-M rocket from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

A Russian relay satellite named Luch-5A, used to transmit live TV images, communications and other telemetry from the International Space Station, was also carried into orbit with AMOS-5 aboard the Proton-M.