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Astrium's Skynet 5 Space Team wins specialist awards from Royal Aeronautical Society (EN)



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Spyworld Actu

- ▶ **Skynet 5 Space Teams wins Gold Team Award and the Geoffrey Pardoe Space Award**
- ▶ **Following in famous footsteps - 100 years since the Wright Brothers were awarded the first gold medal in 1908**
- ▶ **Three Skynet 5 military communications satellites on station and fully operational**
- ▶ **Skynet 5 satellites provide secure communications to UK MoD**

The outstanding work of Astrium's Skynet 5 satellite design and manufacturing team, led by Patrick Wood, FRAeS, the Skynet 5 Project Director, has been recognised with two specialist awards from The Royal Aeronautical Society.

The Gold Team Award is given in recognition of "outstanding work, which has led to substantial advances or contributions in specialist disciplines in the aerospace industry". The second, the Geoffrey Pardoe Space Award recognises "significant contributions to space".

The three Skynet 5 satellites, based on Astrium's highly successful Eurostar E3000 communications spacecraft and launched in March and November 2007 and June 2008, complete the space segment for the UK MOD's Skynet 5 secure communications system. Astrium Services, through its subsidiary Paradigm Secure Communications, is responsible for the £3.6billion Skynet 5 service provision contract, which extends to 2020. It is one of the MOD's largest and most complex PFI contracts to date.

Skynet 5 provides end-to-end, resilient, secure beyond line of sight communications services, including welfare, to the UK MOD and other approved customers.

Astrium Satellites is prime contractor for the satellites and the associated ground infrastructure. Skynet 5 heralded a new era in military communications introducing the highest power X-Band satellite in orbit. Built to support the most challenging missions the satellites are hardened to demanding NATO Standards.

Paradigm is currently providing services to support UK MOD operations around the world. Welfare services include phone calls, text messages and e-mails between UK military personnel deployed on operations and their families at home. In addition, Paradigm is also providing services to NATO, France, Germany, Canada, Portugal and the Netherlands.

On hearing of the awards, Patrick Wood, now Chief Technical Officer, Astrium Satellites, said, "It is great for the whole Skynet team to be recognised and rewarded for its remarkable achievement. It really was a team effort - with more than 600 people involved overall - and we succeeded in getting the complete communications system fully operational on time and to cost. It's fantastic to think that we are following in the footsteps of the Wright Brothers, exactly 100 years later !"

The award ceremony will be held in the Royal Aeronautical Society on Wednesday 5 November 2008, before the prestigious annual Brabazon Lecture.

Astrium, a wholly owned subsidiary of EADS, is dedicated to providing civil and defence space systems and services. In 2007, Astrium had a turnover of Euros3.5 billion and 12,000 employees in France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Spain and the Netherlands. Its three main areas of activity are Astrium Space Transportation for launchers and orbital infrastructure, Astrium Satellites for spacecraft and ground segment and its wholly owned subsidiary Astrium

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Services for the development and delivery of satellite services.

EADS is a global leader in aerospace, defence and related services. In 2007, EADS generated revenues of Euros39.1 billion and employed a workforce of more than 116,000.

Post-scriptum :

<http://www.eads.net/1024/fr/pressdb...>