New satellite extends digital broadcasting in Africa

The new Nilesat-301 geostationary communications satellite will help extend communications a direct digital broadcasting services in two new large regions of Africa, while also providing broadband Ka-band connectivity over all of Egypt.

Thales Alenia Space, a joint venture between Thales (67%) and Leonardo (33%), announced this week tha it has signed a contract with the Egyptian operator Nilesat, to build the Nilesat-301 geostationary communications satellite, winning the contract against an international field of competitors.

Positioned at 7° West, Nilesat-301 will work with Nilesat-201 to provide Ku-band services for the Middle E and North Africa. Nilesat-301 will also help extend the company's provision of Ku-band communications ar direct digital broadcasting services in two new large regions of Africa, while also providing broadband Ka-band connectivity over all of Egypt.

As prime contractor, Thales Alenia Space will be responsible for satellite design, production, testing and i orbit acceptance tests. Thales Alenia Space will also provide satellite control system for Nilesat in both Ca and Alexandria.

The satellite is based on the Spacebus 4000-B2 platform and will weigh about 4 metric tons at launch, whi is scheduled for the first quarter of 2022. It offers a design life exceeding 15 years.

Following Nilesat-201, Nilesat-301 is the second geostationary communications satellite built by Thales Alenia Space for Nilesat. It is also the fourth payload developed by Thales Alenia Space for the Egyptian operator.

"I am delighted that Nilesat, and its Chairman and CEO General Ahmed Anis, continued to place their trust us," said Jean-Loïc Galle. President and Chief Executive Officer of Thales Alenia Space. "This achieveme proves that our telecommunications offer perfectly replies to the telecom market's needs and that we are perfectly capable of providing tailored solutions that meet each operator's specific requirements, to enhar global connectivity and reduce the digital divide."