

Space Japan Milestone

Successful Launch of JCSAT-2A

The JCSAT-2A satellite, the successor to the JCSAT-2 satellite operating in a 154-degree-east orbital slot, was successfully launched from the Guiana Space Center in French Guiana on March 29, 2002 (Japan Standard Time) and started operations on May 10.

JSAT has completed the transfer of services previously offered by JCSAT-2 to the new satellite as planned, significantly expanding global communication services as a result.

JCSAT-2A is critical to extending JSAT's satellite communications services, owing to its superior specifications and coverage area. The new satellite is equipped with Ku-band transponders that have wider coverage and higher power output than those on its predecessor, JCSAT-2. This will enable JSAT to meet demand for higher-resolution images. JCSAT-2A is also equipped with 16 C-band transponders to extend the coverage of global communications services from Asia and Hawaii, currently served by JCSAT-3, to all of Oceania, including New Zealand.

On the ground, JSAT has completed a communications network capable of meeting rapidly growing demand for communications services linking North America, Asia and Oceania. The centerpiece is a new turnaround station in Kapolei on Oahu, Hawaii. This turnaround station links JCSAT-2A, U.S. satellites and submarine fiber-optic communications networks and will operate in conjunction with JSAT's existing turnaround station at Sunset Beach

on Oahu.

JCSAT-2A-related marketing activities, initiated before launch, are already yielding benefits. In January 2002, JSAT showcased JCSAT-2A at the Exhibit PTC 2002, which draws leading telecommunications companies from Pacific Rim nations. The new satellite attracted considerable attention from JSAT's customers and many companies based in the U.S. and the Asia-Pacific region, demonstrating the high hopes throughout the region for JCSAT-2A's role as an international communications satellite.



On May 9, ownership of JCSAT-2A was transferred from Boeing Satellite Systems, Inc. to JSAT



JCSAT-2A was launched on March 29, 2002 (Japan Standard Time)



JSAT receives pre-launch briefing at the Guiana Space Center



JCSAT-2A's Ku-band transponders (red) cover all of Japan, while its C-band transponders (yellow) cover Asia, Oceania and Hawaii.