

Paris, 6 July 2016
PR128 - 2016

Toulouse Space Show 2016 CNES and industry partners present fast broadband services of the future

At this year's Toulouse Space Show (TSS 2016), CNES and its industry partners put on a demonstration of the kind of consumer services that will be available nationwide in the future thanks to high-throughput satellites. These solutions, based on latest-generation technology building blocks, will deliver direct-to-home fast-broadband Internet and linear or interactive TV via a satellite box built into the user's receiving antenna head.

Since 2010, CNES has been working through its telecommunications programmes and other efforts funded through the government's PIA future investment plan to make satellite fast broadband a reality. This technology will allow users outside terrestrial and mobile broadband coverage zones to access Internet and linear or interactive TV services equivalent to those available via optical fibre, ADSL or 4G thanks to a satellite box built into the head of their receiving antenna.

The support that CNES is providing to fuel innovation in this area encompasses the whole system from the space segment to the ground segment, including the network architecture and validation testbeds.

Overseen by CNES and integrated by Thales Alenia Space, the demonstration presented at TSS 2016 employed for the first time a fast-broadband transmission sequence comprising TeamCast's Tyger wideband satellite modulator, Elta's PCE integrated satellite channel simulator and STMicroelectronics' Oxford multi-channel consumer reception circuit, capable of supporting a throughput of 600 Mbps on a maximum of eight carrier frequencies with bandwidths of up to 500 Mhz.

This demonstration marks a fundamental step for CNES, its industry partners and the satcom sector's broader ecosystem, showing that the ground-based technologies are now there to begin deploying the satellite fast-broadband systems that are part of the palette of solutions needed to bridge the digital divide.

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