

Sea Launch Delivers Thuraya-2 Satellite to Orbit

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- Success of 6,000 kg Zenit-3SL Vehicle

Sea Launch accomplished its eighth successful launch today with the perfect flight of the Zenit-3SL rocket and the on-target delivery of the Thuraya-2 satellite to orbit. The flawless mission for Sea Launch also marked the first flight of the 6,000 kg performance Zenit-3SL launch vehicle.

The rocket lifted off at 13:55:59 GMT from the Odyssey Launch Platform positioned on the Equator. Precisely on schedule, the spacecraft separated from the Block DM upper stage at 15:36:18 GMT and was acquired by a ground station in Western Australia at 16:02:00 GMT. All systems performed nominally throughout the flight.

"I want to congratulate the Thuraya Satellite Telecommunications Company on the tremendous success of this mission. I also want to congratulate Boeing Satellite Systems, as well as the entire Sea Launch team," said Jim Maser, president and general manager of Sea Launch. "We especially appreciate Thuraya's continued trust in our launch services and look forward to a lasting relationship with them in the future. Once again, we have met our commitments to our customer."

Built by Boeing Satellite Systems in El Segundo, California, the 5,177 kg (11,413lb) Thuraya-2 satellite is a GEM series (GEO-mobile) spacecraft will further support Thuraya's regional mobile communications services, including voice, fax and data over Eastern Europe, the Middle East, North and Central Africa and Central and Southern Asia.

Sea Launch Company, LLC, based in Long Beach, Calif., and sold commercially through Boeing Launch Services, provides reliable, cost-effective, heavy lift launch services for commercial satellite customers. The Sea Launch partners include Boeing, RSC Energia, SDO Yuzhnoye/PO Yuzhmash and the Kvaerner Group. Established in 1995, Sea Launch has a current backlog of 15 firm launch contracts. As the world's only services provider launching from the Equator, Sea Launch offers the optimal starting point for spacecraft heading to Geostationary Orbit. For additional information, please visit the Sea Launch website.

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