Sea Launch Embarks on the First Mission of 2004

The *Odyssey* Launch Platform and the *Sea Launch Commander* have departed Sea Launch Home Port for the launch of the Telstar 14/Estrela do Sul 1 communications satellite. Built by Space Systems/Loral for Loral Skynet do Brasil, the satellite is scheduled for launch on a Zenit-3SL vehicle, January 9, at the start of a two-hour launch window that will open at 8:02 pm PST (4:02:00 GMT, January 10).

The Sea Launch vessels are sailing from Long Beach, Calif., to the launch site on the Equator at 154° West Longitude. Upon arrival, the launch team will initiate a 72-hour countdown, ballasting the Launch Platform to launch depth, and performing final tests on the rocket and spacecraft. The three-stage rocket will lift the 4694 kg (10,350 lb) spacecraft to a high perigee geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO). This is the first of three consecutive missions Sea Launch will execute for Space Systems/Loral in 2004. Following the Telstar 14/Estrela do Sul 1 mission, Sea Launch is scheduled to launch DIRECTV-7S and then Telstar-18.

The Sea Launch team will deliver the Telstar 14/Estrela do Sul 1 spacecraft to GTO to support a final orbital position at 63° West Longitude. The SS/L 1300 series spacecraft carries 41 Ku-band transponders with five unique and interconnecting coverage beams. Fifty percent of the satellite's power will be focused on Brazil, providing a dedicated Ku-band solution for the Brazilian marketplace. The satellite's other beams will cover the Americas and the North Atlantic Ocean, where Connexion by Boeing^{SM} will use the satellite to provide its Internet-to-aircraft service.

Space Systems/Loral, a subsidiary of Loral Space and Communications, is a premier designer, manufacturer and integrator of powerful satellites and satellite systems and also provides a range of related services that include mission control operations and procurement of launch services. Based in Palo Alto, Calif., the company has an international base of commercial and governmental customers whose applications include broadband digital communications, direct-to-home broadcast, defense communications, environmental monitoring and air traffic control.

Sea Launch Company, LLC, headquartered in Long Beach, Calif., and marketed through Boeing Launch Services , is the world's most reliable commercial launch services provider. With the advantage of the only launch site on the Equator, the reliable Zenit-3SL rocket can lift a heavier spacecraft mass or provide longer life on orbit, offering best value plus schedule assurance. Sea Launch offers the most direct and cost-effective route to geostationary orbit. For additional information, visit the Sea Launch website.

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