Sea Launch Initiates Countdown for Inmarsat-4 Launch

The Sea Launch team has initiated a 72-hour countdown in preparation for the launch of the Inmarsat-4 (I-4) satellite on Saturday, November 5, at the opening of a 29-minute launch window, at 6:18:55 am Pacific Time (14:18:55 GMT).

With launch site operations now underway at 154 degrees West Longitude on the Equator, the Odyssey Launch Platform is ballasted to its launch depth and stationed alongside the Sea Launch Commander (Assembly and Command Ship), periodically connected by a link-bridge that enables foot traffic between the two vessels.

A Zenit-3SL rocket will be rolled out of its environmentally protected hangar and automatically erected on the launch pad at L-27 hours. The platform will be evacuated, with all personnel safely stationed on the ship, three miles uprange from the platform, for the remainder of launch operations. On launch day, the rocket will lift the 5,958 kg (13,108 lb.) Inmarsat-4 satellite to geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO), on its way to a final orbital position of 53 degrees West Longitude.

This is Sea Launch's first mission with Inmarsat and the first with EADS Astrium, which built the powerful spacecraft. Inmarsat-4 is designed to provide high-speed mobile service to people throughout the Americas during its 13-year service life. It is one in a series of satellites designed to support the Broadband Global Area Network (BGAN) for high-speed delivery of Internet and intranet content and solutions, video-on-demand, videoconferencing, fax, e-mail, phone and LAN access. One of a family of three similar spacecraft, this Inmarsat-4 F2 satellite carries a single global beam that covers up to a third of the Earth's surface, 19 wide spot beams and 228 narrow spot beams. It has a total end-of-life power of 13kW.

Sea Launch will carry a live satellite feed and streaming video of the entire mission, beginning at 6:00 am PT (14:00 GMT). Transponder coordinates for downlink will be posted at: www.boeing.com/nosearch/sealaunch/broadcast.html. A simultaneous webcast may be accessed at: www.sea-launch.com/current_index_webcast.html.

Sea Launch Company, LLC, headquartered in Long Beach, Calif., is the world's most reliable commercial launch services provider. With the advantage of a launch site on the Equator, the proven Zenit-3SL rocket can lift a heavier spacecraft mass or provide longer life on orbit, yielding best value plus schedule assurance. Sea Launch offers the most direct and cost-effective route to geostationary orbit. For additional information, please visit the Sea Launch website at: www.sea-launch.com
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During launch operations, please contact our News Center at 562.951.7088 or 562.951.7388

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