6th Boeing-built Wideband Satellite Expands Tactical Communications

Australia is 1st international partner for secure communications network

EL SEGUNDO, Calif., Aug. 7, 2013– With today's launch of the sixth Wideband Global SATCOM satellite, Boeing [NYSE: BA] and the U.S. Air Force continue to expand the advanced WGS communications network that serves the U.S. Department of Defense and its international partners, including the Australian Defence Force.

"The demand for wideband satellite communications continues to increase," said Craig Cooning, vice president and general manager of Boeing Space & Intelligence Systems. "WGS-6 and the additional WGS spacecraft yet to be launched will help to meet that need."

The satellite was launched on a United Launch Alliance Delta IV rocket from Florida's Cape Canaveral Air Force Station at 8:29 p.m. Eastern time. Approximately 57 minutes later, controllers confirmed the satellite was functioning as expected.

This is the second WGS launch of the year, following the May 24 deployment of WGS-5. WGS satellites provide X- and Ka-band protected communications capability using shapable and steerable spot beams that are easily reconfigurable based on user needs.

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