Boeing: First All-Electric Propulsion Satellites Send First On-Orbit Signals

The 702SP satellites launched as a stacked pair

Bermuda-based ABS and Paris-based Eutelsat are first commercial customers for the 702SP

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. Mar. 2, 2015 –Two Boeing [NYSE: BA] 702SP (small platform) satellites, the first all-electric propulsion satellites to launch, have sent initial signals from space, marking the first step toward ABS, based in Bermuda, and Eutelsat, based in Paris, being able to provide enhanced communication services to their customers. What's more, the satellites were launched as a conjoined stack on a single SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, demonstrating a patented Boeing technology that promises to noticeably reduce launch costs.

"By launching the satellites as a pair, Boeing customers can save on launch costs while benefitting from the company's highly capable and flexible platforms to meet their mission requirements," said Mark Spiwak, president, Boeing Satellite Systems International, Inc.

The program is an example of Boeing rapidly bringing innovative technology to market, moving the 702SP from development to signal acquisition in fewer than three years.

Once handed over, ABS-3A will expand ABS' services in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Ocean regions. EUTELSAT 115 West B will principally serve rapidly expanding data markets in Latin America, as well as Canada and Alaska.

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