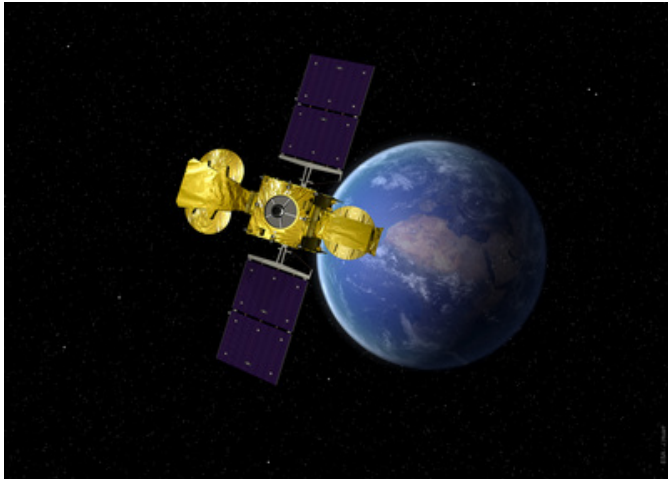


European Broadband Coverage Via Satellite

Written by Marco Attard
26 November 2010

The EU is set to launch the first satellite created to deliver broadband access to European consumers.



The Hylas 1 satellite will provide broadband together with a range of conventional telecommunications services (HDTV broadcast and data distribution services).

It represents 10 years of R&D by the European Space Agency (ESA) and European industry-- UK operator Avanti put up the majority of the budget, while ESA focused on its communications payload.

An estimated 20 million Europeans cannot get high-quality broadband access.

The satellite's communications payload is adjustable through its separate antenna-- one transmitting wide Ku-band beam for TV broadcast, the other Ka-band for broadband services (directing 8 spot beams onto key European markets).

Its operator can fine-tune each beam's bandwidth and power.

Following its launch from Kourou, French Guyane, is a year-long demonstration phase showing the payload's flexibility and advanced broadband applications.

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