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Thaicom Acquires New Capacity Ahead of Thaicom 6

NONTHABURI, 14 May 2013, THAICOM Public Company Limited today announced that it will provide interim satellite services in advance of its Thaicom 6 satellite launch. The interim satellite will serve the growing demand of Thailand's broadcasters; hence support the growth of the country's broadcasting industry, while at the same time providing more benefits and revenue sharing to the Thai government.

“Realizing the needs of our customers, we have acquired an interim satellite to provide services at 78.5 degrees East orbital slot well ahead of the launch of Thaicom 6.,” **Suphajee Suthumpun, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Executive Committee, THAICOM PLC.,** stated. “Such interim satellite, according to the plan, can commence services in late of July.”

With the interim satellite, Thaicom will be able to provide its existing and new customers with additional satellite broadcasting capacity from the 78.5 degrees East orbital slot, as well as to meet the needs of any Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) stations that may require broadcasting in accordance with the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission's (NBTC) “Must-Carry” regulations. Once Thaicom 6 is launched, such interim satellite will be moved away. The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) has also agreed to service provisioning of the interim satellite in accordance with MICT's satellite concession.

The original launch schedule of Thaicom 6 was in mid-2013. Recently, the launcher of Thaicom 6, Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX), informed that due to delay in the launch of a satellite ahead in the line, Thaicom 6's launch schedule will unavoidably be shifted, possibly until late of the third quarter or in the fourth quarter of this year.

“In satellite industry, launch delay could occur for a variety of reasons. This case was due to the launcher, SpaceX, had experienced scheduling problems with another satellite to be launched before Thaicom 6. However, the delay posts no problem to Thaicom. Our Thaicom 6 satellite manufacturing is well-on-track. Moreover, we have been able to acquire an interim satellite to serve our customers.” **Suphajee** explained.

The acquisition of this interim satellite will be beneficial to all stakeholders. In timely manner, the interim satellite will serve the growing demand of Thailand's broadcasters; hence support the growth of the country's broadcasting industry, while at the same time providing more benefits and revenue sharing

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to MICT under the terms and conditions of MICT's satellite concession. Thaicom will also be able to realize additional revenue in advance of the launch of Thaicom 6.

"Our customers are important to us, and it is our responsibility to provide them with good solutions. Finding a satellite that is technically compatible to our Thaicom 6, and one that is able to provide the type of services we need, at exactly the time that we need them, is a very difficult task. I must say that our teams worked extremely hard under very difficult circumstances to come up with this solution," **Suphajee** added.

THAICOM 6 has already exceeded its pre-launch booking target of 30%, with sales exceeding 60% of capacity. The satellite will provide broadcasting services for customers throughout the Asia-Pacific region, as well as Africa, from the 'hotbird' position at 78.5 degrees East.

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