



Thaicom launches 3G/4G mobile backhaul via satellite for seamless connectivity across Thailand

Nonthaburi, 4 July 2016 – **Thaicom PLC**, a leading Asian satellite operator, now offers mobile backhaul service for high quality 3G/4G signal in remote areas during periods when network usage is high. Thaicom will employ its C-band and IPSTAR systems to provide mobile backhaul for AIS, a major Thai mobile network operator, to ensure full coverage throughout Thailand.

Patompob Suwansiri, Chief Commercial Officer of Thaicom, said "Thaicom is honored and grateful to AIS for placing their trust in Thaicom's mobile backhaul service. Thaicom sees the opportunity to leverage high quality satellite signal and technology to extend 3G/4G network coverage quickly and improve service in certain areas so that networks are more efficient and stable. Improving infrastructure on the ground still involves large investments, accessibility issues, complicated installations, and a number of other challenges. Maintaining strong coverage everywhere remains a challenging goal for mobile network operators. Thaicom is more than ready to support customers who want to leverage satellite capabilities to achieve seamless network coverage."

Mr. Weerawat Kiattipongthaworn, Senior Executive Vice President of Operations for AIS, said "AIS is intent on developing and delivering strong network coverage throughout our service area. AIS has always developed its network continuously. In order to ensure more efficient 3G/4G coverage, AIS has chosen to use Thaicom's service to help manage coverage in remote areas unreachable by ground infrastructure and to improve network efficiency in high usage areas, such as large event venues."

Thaicom's mobile backhaul service was developed to support mobile networks using satellite signal on Thaicom's C-band and IPSTAR systems to connect both fixed and mobile base stations on the ground, providing smartphone users with an enhanced 3G/4G experience and expanded coverage area. Thaicom has successfully provided this service to large mobile network operators abroad, including 1 of the top 3 operators in Japan as well as in India. For AIS, Thaicom has developed and installed a system of both fixed base stations and mobile trucks to send and receive signal. Aside from providing service under normal conditions, mobile backhaul can also aid in establishing communications during crisis or disaster situations when ground-based networks cannot be used.

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About THAICOM

THAICOM Public Company Limited, a leading Asian satellite operator, was established in 1991. The Company was the first to launch a broadband satellite in the world, and is a leader in developing integrated solutions for satellite broadband and broadcast services. The Company's engineering teams provide leading-edge innovative solutions for satellite-based telecommunications services. Since its establishment the Company has launched seven satellites, with four satellites in operation: THAICOM 4 (IPSTAR) provides a variety of broadband and data services, including cellular backhaul, mobility, government USO support, content delivery, business continuity and emergency services in thirteen countries in Asia Pacific.

THAICOM 6 is to expand the Company's broadcast carrying capacity in SE Asia and Africa (by the name "AFRICOM 1") and is collocated with THAICOM 5 at 78.5 degrees East; the satellites board a combined 700 TV channels both in SD and HD formats. THAICOM 7 was launched in September 2014 to provide media & data services for Asia's and Australasia's entertainment and telecom industries at 120 degrees East. THAICOM 8 was launched in May 2016 to expand Thaicom's servicing capacity and footprint in the region. Thaicom is traded on the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) under the trade symbol "THCOM".

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