



**INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION
TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU**

**WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT
CONFERENCE (WTDC-98)**

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For information

PLENARY MEETING

Note by the Director of BDT

I have the honour to submit to the Conference for information the attached document from the Thuraya Satellite Telecommunication System.

The Thuraya Satellite Telecommunication System
A regional mobile satellite system to the benefit of developing countries.

• **INTRODUCTION**

Telecommunication infrastructure development has been a priority issue among developing countries. The need to extend universal telecommunication access to users in remote areas has been emerging whereby extension of mobile and fixed services in these areas have been facing economical difficulties.

Thuraya mobile satellite system is determined to address these issues and will play an important role in complimenting the existing terrestrial telecommunication infrastructure for their satisfactory resolution.

• **THURAYA'S CONCEPT**

Thuraya is a Geo-mobile satellite system which is under construction planned to offer mobile voice services through dual mode user terminal (GSM-Satellite). Additionally, fax and data at 9.6 KBs/second will be offered to Thuraya users.

Thuraya coverage area include Indian sub-continent, Central Asia, middle East, Eastern Europe and North & Central Africa.

Thuraya's concept is based on complementing existing terrestrial services and not to compete with them.

• **THE "THURAYA" COMPANY**

Thuraya Satellite Telecommunication Company is a private joint venture company established in the United Arab Emirates. Its purpose is to extend mobile satellite services in remote areas not covered by existing terrestrial networks."

Thuraya has succeeded in raising equity of US\$ 500 million through very reputed telecommunications operators, satellite operator, financial institutions, satellite manufacturer and telecommunications consultant.

• **THURAYA EXISTING SHAREHOLDERS**

- ◇ Abu Dhabi Investment Company (ADIC) - United Arab Emirates.
- ◇ Al Murjan Trading and Industrial Co. Ltd. - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- ◇ Arab Republic of Egypt National Telecommunications Organization (Telecom Egypt)-Egypt.
- ◇ Arab Satellite Communications Organization (Arabsat).
- ◇ Bahrain Telecommunication Co. (Batelco) - Bahrain
- ◇ Deutsche Telepost consulting GMBH (DETECON) - Germany.
- ◇ Dubai Investments PJSC - United Arab Emirates.
- ◇ Emirates telecommunications Corporation (Etisalat) - United Arab Emirates.
- ◇ General Post and Telecommunications Company - Libya.
- ◇ Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC).
- ◇ Hughes Space and Communications International, Inc. U.S.A.
- ◇ Mobile Telecommunications Co. (KSC) - Kuwait.
- ◇ Public Telecommunication Corporation - Republic of Yemen.
- ◇ Qatar Telecommunication Corporation (Q-Tel) - Qatar
- ◇ Office of National Post and Telecommunications - Morocco.
- ◇ TUNISIE TELECOM - Tunisia.

CURRENT STATUS

- ◇ Thuraya succeeded in raising US\$ 500 million in 1997.
- ◇ Thuraya successfully concluded a turn key project contract with Hughes in September 11, 1997.
- ◇ Thuraya is scheduled to launch its satellite in year 2000 and commercial operation will commence in the same year.

REGIONAL EXPERIENCE IN SATELLITE OPERATION

Thuraya is a regionally initiated project with an objective towards extending the advantages and benefits of the Thuraya mobile satellite technology to developing countries. As a result, users in the region can share these benefits in most efficient and economical way.

Thuraya will provide fast solution to telecom operators in its coverage area extending telecommunication services to remote and un-served areas.

The Thuraya business consortium represents a sound mix of technical, financial and managerial capabilities.

CONCLUSION

Thuraya is designed to serve developing countries and play an important role in its coverage area through its provisioning of cost effective mobile satellite services in areas considered to be the most populous in the world.
