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SUBJ: NIMA 0930 HIGHLIGHT CABLE 12 SEP 97

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2014-0965-M 05126116 KDE

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KAZAKHSTAN: SL-12 LAUNCH PREPARATIONS IN PROGRESS
(S/REL UK, CAN, AUS)

TEXT:

- 1. TYURATAM SPACE LAUNCH SITE G3-4 [1.4c]
[1.4c]

KAZAKHSTAN: SL-12 LAUNCH PREPARATIONS IN PROGRESS (S/REL UK, CAN, AUS)

PREPARATIONS FOR THE LAUNCH OF AN SL-12 PROTON SPACE LAUNCH VEHICLE (SLV) WERE IN PROGRESS AT THE TYURATAM MISSILE AND SPACE CENTER IN KAZAKHSTAN ON 12 SEPTEMBER. [1.4c]
EO 13526 1.4c AN SL-12 SLV HAS BEEN LAUNCHED ON THE LAUNCH PAD AT LAUNCH SITE G3 SINCE 7 SEPTEMBER. (S/REL UK, CAN, AUS)

ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS THE PAYLOAD FOR THE LAUNCH WILL BE SEVEN IRIDIUM GLOBAL MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES AND IS SCHEDULED FOR LAUNCH ON 14 SEPTEMBER. AN SL-12 SLV WAS USED TO LAUNCH SEVEN IRIDIUM SATELLITES IN JUNE 1997. PRESS REPORTS ALSO INDICATE THAT RUSSIA-S KHRUNICHEV SPACE CENTER IS UNDER CONTRACT WITH A U.S. CORPORATION TO LAUNCH A TOTAL OF 21 IRIDIUM SATELLITES USING PROTON BOOSTERS. MOREOVER, THE U.S. HAS ALREADY LAUNCHED 10 SATELLITES, AND WITH CHINA, WILL LAUNCH THE REMAINING SATELLITES TO ACHIEVE A 66 OPERATIONAL SATELLITE CONSTELLATION. CURRENTLY, 17 IRIDIUM SATELLITES ARE IN ORBIT. (U)

[1.4c, 3.5c]

REFERENCE(S):

[EO 13526 1.4c]

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(U) Foreign News Release

SOURCE: Moscow Interfax 20 August

This press release announced the delay of the ASTRA launch from August to October. The Societe Europeen Des Satellites (SES), ASTRA-1G, will be taken to orbit in October instead of August and the space probe ASTRA-2A in November instead of October. Khrunichev said Russia entered the international commercial launching market on a fully-fledged basis for the first time in April this year when ASTRA-1F was launched from the Baikonur Space Center for \$60 million, not counting the cost of insurance.

SOURCE: Moscow RIA 16 September

An ASTRA-1G communication satellite belonging to Luxembourg's SES company will be brought into orbit with the help of the heavy PROTON-K booster from the Baykonur Cosmodrome on October 25, sources in the state space scientific-industrial center named after Khrunichev reported to a RIA Novosti correspondent.

According to a representative of the center, about 45 percent of

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European companies utilizing programs of the satellite television use the services of the SES firm, the ASTRA-1G satellite is

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another television satellite.

A joint venture which was formed by the center named after Khrunichev, Rocket-Space Corporation Energiya and an American company have concluded a contract with the SES firm for the launch of its four satellites, one of them was brought into orbit last year. As many a two satellites of the SES firm are supposed to be launched into space with the help of the PROTON boosters in 1998, a representative of the center said.

We'd like to remind that the previous commercial launch of the PROTON booster took place on September 14. At that time it brought into orbit seven satellites of the low-orbit mobile communication system Iridium. As many as three commercial launches of the PROTON booster are scheduled to take place before the end of this year.

SOURCE: MOSCOW INTERFAX 21 October

The October 25 launch of a ASTRA 1G satellite for Luxembourg-based SES has been postponed until November 21 to give its manufacturer time to make some last minute adjustments.

Moscow's Khrunichev Center, which builds the Proton-K rocket that will carry ASTRA 1G into orbit, said the manufacturer had discovered faults in the satellite's communications system and in one of its fuel tanks. They were also double checking ASTRA 1G after the solar panels of a similar satellite overheated after they were launched by a PROTON-K on August 28. Khrunichev said all these problems have now been overcome and the manufacturer believes it will be able to deliver the satellite to the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan by October 25 to allow preparations for the launch begin.

SOURCE: MOSCOW INTERFAX 15 November

The launch of the ASTRA 1G satellite of the Luxembourg-based Societe Europeenne De Satellites (SES) company with the help of a PROTON-K rocket has been postponed from November 21 to November 30, the press service of the Khrunichev State Space Center, which produces PROTON rockets, told Interfax.

The satellite's producer has requested several more days for fine-tuning the satellite's solar panels in order to avert overheating, the press service said.

The launch of the ASTRA 1G satellite has been postponed several times. Previously it was delayed from October 25 to November 21.

The satellite will blast off from the Baykonur cosmodrome under the auspices of the Russian-U.S. joint venture.

SOURCE: MOSCOW RIA 21 November

Set for today, blast-off of the Russian behemoth booster PROTON, which is to inject into orbit the a ASTRA-1G, has been delayed till December 3. RIA Novosti was told at the Mikhail Khrunichev State Space Scientific-industrial Center, which makes PROTONs, that the delay is due to problems with the satellite's power supply. As to PROTON it is now in Baikonur and

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fully ready to carry the tip load. It is to be reminded that ASTRA-1G launches were delayed earlier too because of problems which emerged at the manufacturer. Sometimes, PROTON commercial launches were delayed because of the unpreparedness of the satellite manufacturers. Such situations with the PROTON manufacturers have not yet cropped up. PROTON has been in service since 1965 and, in all, 251 blast-offs have taken place, 21 of them abortive. Ten failures fall on the 1960's, when PROTON service began. Commercial launches of PROTONS are according to world prices, 70 to 90 million dollars.

SOURCE: PRESS 3 December

A Russian heavy booster lifted a European communications satellite into orbit on Wednesday, a Russian Space Agency official said.

The PROTON-K rocket blasted off from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 2.10 a.m. Moscow time (2310 GMT), agency spokesman Vyacheslav Mikhailechenko said.

"The ASTRA-1G, which belongs to Societe Europeenne des Satellites (SES), reached its scheduled orbit at 8.53 a.m. Moscow time and began to work," he said.

Mikhailechenko said the three-tonne satellite would provide television coverage in Europe during the next 15 years.

It is the seventh Astra satellite operated in orbit by Luxembourg-based SES. The company plans to launch three more Astra probes using Russia's Proton-K boosters by 1999.

The first such probe was launched from Baikonur in 1996. Russian space experts say Russia earns about \$70 million from each launch.

The space agency plans five more launches this month.

Between December 12 and December 15 a Ukrainian-made rocket Tsiklon will lift a Russian spy satellite Kosmos into orbit from Baikonur and another Kosmos probe will be launched from Russia's northern cosmodrome Plesetsk using a Soyuz-U booster.

On December 14 Russia's Start-1 booster with a U.S. communication satellite is scheduled to be launched from the Svobodny cosmodrome in the Far East.

At the end of the month Russia plans to launch a cargo spacecraft from Baikonur. Progress M-36 will deliver several tonnes of water, fuel, tools and Christmas gifts to the orbiting Mir station's crew.

Russia will also launch a communication Asiasat-3 probe which belongs to the Hong Kong-based Asia Satellite Telecommunications company.

ORIG:

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1.4c

PRESS ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF LONG MARCH ROCKET
AND REPORTS PAYLOAD IN ORBIT, 8 DECEMBER 1997

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1.4c

PRESS ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF LONG MARCH ROCKET
AND REPORTS PAYLOAD IN ORBIT, 8 DECEMBER 1997

EO 13526 1.4c

TEXT:

(U) PRC press today announced the launch of the 49th Long March rocket, from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in North China's Shanxi Province. The Long March Rocket, carrying two IRIDIUM communication satellites, was launched at 3:16:49 pm on 8 December.

(U) According to press "the two satellites were positioned at the low-earth orbit with a perigee of 629 km, an apogee of 632 km and a bank angle of 86.3 degrees, marking the successful end of the commercial launch undertaken by China Great Wall Industry Corp."

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(U) FOREIGN NEWS RELEASE

Source: Beijing Xinhua

Released: 26 March 1998

A Chinese Long March 2C rocket lifted-off from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in North China's Shanxi Province this morning at 01:01 (Beijing time) successfully carrying two IRIDIUM satellites into orbit.

The satellites were carried on the improved version of China's Long March 2C which measures 40 meters in length, has a diameter of 3.35 meters, and weighs 213 tons. The rocket also features an additional distributor stage capable of simultaneously boosting the two satellites from the initial holding pattern to the final elliptical orbit.

The second stage separated from the distributor stage some 11 minutes into the flight. The distributor stage carried the two satellites to a predetermined holding pattern for a period of approximately 40 minutes and then altered course to boost the two satellites to their final orbit.

Source: Beijing Xinhua

Released: 26 March 1998

A Chinese Long March 2C rocket smoothly sent two satellites into orbit from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center.

A Chinese space expert said, the the success rate of China's

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rocket launches is approaching advanced international levels. Since 1970, when it began to use the Long March carrier rocket to propel satellites into the skies, China has launched 50 rockets with 44

successes and six failures, an 88 percent success rate. The space expert said, that this success rate approached or exceeded that of the first 50 rocket launches by advanced countries. He also said, that with the continual growth of china's comprehensive national strength, the number of long march booster yearly launches will increase.

POC: [1.4c] [(b)(6), 1.4b, 1.4c] [1.4c]

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[(b)(6), EO 13526 1.4b, 1.4c]

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(U) FOREIGN NEWS RELEASE

Source: Beijing Xinhua

Released: 2 May 1998

China has successfully sent two US-made Iridium satellites into orbit from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi Province late this afternoon.

It is the third time that a China-made Long March rocket carried into space two Iridium satellites made by the US.

Source: Beijing Xinhua

Released: 2 May 1998

A Chinese Long March 2C rocket successfully sent two US-made Iridium satellites into orbit from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi Province late this afternoon.

The rocket lifted off from the center at 17:16 pm (Beijing Time) [0916 GMT].

This is the third time that a Long March rocket has carried into space two Iridium satellites made by the US.

The other two launches were on December 8, 1997 and March 26, 1998, respectively.

The continuous overcast and rainy weather with thunder in the past few days add difficulties to the launch, and every day there were only 36 seconds for the launch command.

The Chinese scientists, however, succeeded in the launch, based on their rich experience and precise calculations.

After 11 minutes, the distributor stage successfully altered course and boosted the two satellites into their predetermined orbit at a perigee of 632 km, apogee of 634 km, and bank angle of 86.4 degrees.

In line with a contract signed in April, 1993, China in the coming years will continue to use the Long March 2C rockets to send 16 Iridium satellites into orbit from the Taiyuan center to maintain the communications network.

The satellites are to be launched by Delta 2 rockets, Proton rockets of Russia and Long March 2C rockets of China.

Today's launch was the 51st using the Long March rocket series. Since it was put into international commercial service in 1985, the Long March rockets have sent a total of 15 foreign commercial satellites into space.

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Press Announces Launch of Long

March 2C Rocket
Carrier, 19 December 1998

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1.4c

Press Announces Launch of Long

March 2C Rocket
Carrier, 19 December 1998

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(U) The successful launch, the 13th since the Long March

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carrier rocket finally was introduced in October 1996, represented the completion of China's 1998 launch schedule and highlighted the progress of China's commercial launch service.

(U) Initial reports from the Xi'an satellite monitoring and control center indicate that the distributor module carrying the satellites separated the second stage and followed a predetermined flight plan before entering the orbit some 11 minutes after the launch.

(U) After sliding for 40 minutes, the distributor module altered its course and boosted the two satellites into their predetermined orbit at a perigee of 629.9 KM, apogee of 646.92 KM and bank angle (inclination) of 86.35 degrees

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EO 13526 1.4c

(U) FOREIGN NEWS RELEASE:
SOURCE: BEIJING XINHUA 1328 GMT 19 DECEMBER 98

(U) A Chinese Long March 2C at 1930 (Beijing time) from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in North China's Shanxi province carrying two us-made Iridium satellites into a predetermined orbit.

POC: (b)(6), EO 13526 1.4b, 1.4c 1.4c

EO 13526 1.4c

(b)(6), EO 13526 1.4b, 1.4c

1.4c