SES

Press release

SES Networks Enables EMSA's Environmental Protection Service in Iceland

European Maritime Safety Agency uses managed connectivity services for remotely piloted aircraft performing search and rescue, environmental and other maritime missions

Luxembourg, 17 June 2019 – Icelandic maritime authorities are utilising the European Maritime Safety Agency's (EMSA) Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) portfolio enabled by SES Networks' managed connectivity services to support the country's requirements for environmental protection and fisheries control, SES announced today.

The connected ELBIT HERMES 900 RPAS will perform maritime surveillance tasks in areas extending as far as 200 nautical miles from the shoreline, covering important areas of the Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone, with missions lasting as long as 12 hours. SES Networks' connectivity is utilised for this Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) RPAS to empower multiple Icelandic authorities – such as the Icelandic coast guard, the fisheries directorate, the environment agency, the customs directorate, and the search and rescue association – to remotely follow the missions via a dedicated data centre and to ensure timely decision-making.

Under a framework agreement, SES Networks will deliver managed satellite communications (SATCOM) connectivity services for EMSA missions, including secure end-to-end satellite and terrestrial links, capacity and teleport infrastructure, as well as distribution of the RPAS data via satellite internet services to end-users.

"Reliable connectivity is critical for timely decision-making during maritime missions, especially for search and rescue operations," said EMSA's Executive Director Ms Maja Markovčić Kostelac. "Stable, high-performance connectivity not only enables quick situational assessment, but it also boosts the cost-efficiency of resource deployment by the national authorities using our services. This matters all the more when critical data is being delivered to and from a moving platform in harsh meteorological conditions where there is no terrestrial infrastructure."

"We have been developing our space and ground assets, as well as secure managed connectivity service capabilities, to support a variety of critical missions required by government customers," said Nicole Robinson, Senior Vice President, Global Government at SES Networks. "RPAS missions are one of the key areas where we have built extensive expertise supporting a variety of global platforms, including processing and delivering data from multiple sensors to those fulfilling and monitoring mission-critical tasks. We are honoured to support EMSA and Icelandic authorities for these important missions in a geographically dispersed area."

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About SES

SES is the world's leading satellite operator with over 70 satellites in two different orbits, Geostationary Orbit (GEO) and Medium Earth Orbit (MEO). It provides a diverse range of customers with global video distribution and data connectivity services through two business units: SES Video and SES Networks. SES Video reaches over 355 million TV homes, through Direct-to-Home (DTH) platforms and cable, terrestrial, and IPTV networks globally. The SES Video portfolio includes MX1, a leading media service provider offering a full suite of innovative services for both linear and digital distribution, and the ASTRA satellite system, which has the largest DTH television reach in Europe. SES Networks provides global managed data services, connecting people in a variety of sectors including telecommunications, maritime, aeronautical, and energy, as well as governments and institutions across the world. The SES Networks portfolio includes GovSat, a 50/50 public-private partnership between SES and the Luxembourg government, and O3b, the only non-geostationary system delivering fibre-like broadband services today. Further information is available at: www.ses.com