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● Syrlinks equips Pléiades Neo constellation ●

Press Release

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Pléiades Neo, initiated, financed and operated by Airbus Defense & Space, is a constellation of four high-performance earth observation satellites. The constellation will be deployed over 2021 and 2022, and will complement the European fleet of civil and military observation satellites already in orbit.

Launch of the 1st Pléiades Neo satellite

The first satellite was launched on board the Vega 18 rocket from the European Space Center in Kourou, French Guiana, on Wednesday 28 April 2021. The satellites of this «new generation» constellation will provide images with a 30 cm resolution in real time. Satellites will be able to acquire images approximately 30 to 40 minutes after the mission request. This shortened time frame will allow a rapid response to critical situations.

These satellites belong to the mini-satellite family and weigh about 750 kg. They are positioned at an altitude of 620 km and have a mission lifetime of 10 years. In a few weeks, the Pléiades Neo 4 satellite will be launched into orbit on a Vega rocket.

Syrlinks EWC34 transmitter, one of the key elements for data transmission

Syrlinks teams were commissioned by Airbus DS to provide the EWC34 high data rate transmitter. To meet the needs of the Pléiades Neo constellation, Airbus DS was looking for a very high speed image telemetry equipment. Syrlinks, with its experience in space radio communications, was able to meet this requirement with an X-band transmitter delivering a data rate of 600 Mbps. The company is known for its ability to design customised products.



© EWC34 - Syrlinks

Offering a high data rate transmitter such as the EWC34 was therefore a very stimulating project for the company's R&D teams. The development of this product started in September 2016 and mobilised a team of around 40 people within Syrlinks.

The EWC34 transmitter is therefore an essential piece of equipment for the smooth running of Pléiades Neo satellite observation missions. Thanks to this high-speed image telemetry link, the data acquired by the satellites are sent to the processing centres on the ground in a very short time.

The Pléiades Neo 3 satellite onboard three pieces of EWC34 equipment, one for redundancy and two others to meet the mission's needs. The Pléiades Neo 4 satellite will also onboard three EWC34 transmitters, while Pléiades Neo 5 and 6 will each have only two.



© Part of the Syrlinks team that participated in the design & production of the EWC34 - Syrlinks

EWC34, an ECSS Class 2 compliant product, available on the shelf

The EWC34 high data rate X-band transmitter product completes Syrlinks' range of off-the-shelf radio products. This equipment is compliant with ESA's ECSS-Q-ST-60C Class 2 standard.

Syrlinks and Airbus DS are working together for several years now. Syrlinks has provided Airbus DS with radio transmitters and receivers for the Myriade and Myriade Evolutions satellites, and now with these broadband transmitters for the Pleiades Neo satellites. Syrlinks teams are delighted to have been able to take up this technological challenge and are already ready to innovate again. Syrlinks is also supplying transmitters/receivers to Airbus OneWeb Satellites for the OneWeb constellation.



« This project has been rich in both, technological and industrial terms. This product has enabled us to take a step forward in the supply of space products by developing our first ECSS Class 2 compliant equipment. To meet this challenge, it was necessary to strengthen and train our teams in the constraints of space and Class 2. Today, we are ready to equip broadband transmitters for future Earth observation missions.» explains Laurent Chapel, project manager at Syrlinks.

« This technical and industrial challenge was met thanks to the involvement and know-how of the Syrlinks teams and Airbus Defence and Space experts. A new major programme has been launched in Q4 2020 to manufacture this new equipment. » adds Gwénaél Guillois, Syrlinks General Director.



About Syrlinks

Syrlinks, is a French company, founded in 2011 near Rennes. The company designs and deliver worldwide RF communication products to address four market segments: Space, Defense, Safety and Time-frequency.

Its products are now deployed on hundreds of satellites and have also been used in many high-profile space missions such as Rosetta and its small Philae Robot to explore Comet Chury at the edge of our solar system. Syrlinks works with prestigious clients and partners such as Airbus, OneWeb, the CNES (the French national agency for space studies), the European Space Agency (ESA), Thales Alenia Space, and Hemeria. More infos at www.syrlinks.com

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