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December 9, 2004

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Federal Communication Commission
Bureau/Office

*BY HAND DELIVERY
AND ELECTRONIC FILING*

Mr. Thomas S. Tycz
Chief, Satellite Division
International Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: SES Americom, Inc. AMC-23 Milestone Compliance:
Completion of Critical Design Review and
Commencement of Physical Construction
File No. SAT-LOA-20031218-00358 (S2610)**

Dear Mr. Tycz:

SES Americom, Inc. ("SES Americom"), by its attorneys, hereby submits documentation to demonstrate compliance with the critical design review ("CDR") and commencement of physical construction milestones for the AMC-23 replacement satellite to be located at 172° E.L. We request that the Commission make a determination that the second and third AMC-23 milestones have been met. Because SES Americom has already submitted a compliance filing related to the construction contract for AMC-23, we request authority to reduce the AMC-23 bond to \$750,000.

On October 28, 2004, SES Americom submitted a copy of its construction contract for AMC-23 to show that it had met the initial milestone under its authorization. SES Americom requested authority to reduce the original \$3 million bond by 25% to \$2,250,000. This matter is pending before the Commission.

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SES Americom submits here the showing required to support a further reduction of the bond to \$750,000, consistent with Commission policies.¹ The AMC-23 license requires SES Americom to complete the CDR for AMC-23 by July 14, 2006, and to commence physical construction of the spacecraft by July 14, 2007.² As the attached materials show, SES Americom has completed both these steps well in advance of the deadlines in the AMC-23 authorization.

Specifically, attached is a declaration from Guy Perez, AMC-23 Program Manager for Alcatel Space, the manufacturer of the satellite. The declaration confirms that CDR of the spacecraft was completed on October 21, and that no changes to the construction contract have been made. In addition, the declaration acknowledges that Alcatel has received payments for construction of AMC-23 to date for all amounts due through November 30, 2004, representing over 58% of the total purchase price for the spacecraft. Finally, the declaration describes the status of physical construction of the spacecraft.

Also attached are recent photographs of the AMC-23 spacecraft. The photographs demonstrate that physical construction of all aspects of the spacecraft is well under way, consistent with the schedule in the AMC-23 contract.

Collectively these materials show that SES Americom has met its milestone obligations with respect to CDR and the commencement of physical construction. SES Americom respectfully requests that the Commission review the attached documents and enter a finding that the second and third milestones of the AMC-23 license have been satisfied, in addition to the contract milestone SES Americom addressed in its prior filing. Such a finding will permit SES Americom to reduce the amount of the performance bond it is required to maintain to \$750,000.

¹ See 47 C.F.R. § 25.165(d) ("A GSO-like licensee will be permitted to reduce the amount of the bond by 25 percent of the original bond amount upon successfully meeting a milestone deadline set forth in §25.164(a)").

² See File No. SAT-LOA-20031218-00358, granted July 13, 2004, Terms and Conditions of Authorization at ¶ 2.a.

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If any questions arise in connection with this matter, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. A. H.", is positioned above the typed names of the signatories.

Peter A. Rohrbach

Karis A. Hastings

Counsel for SES Americom, Inc.

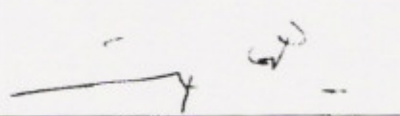
Enclosures

cc: Fern Jarmulnek
Andrea Kelly

DECLARATION

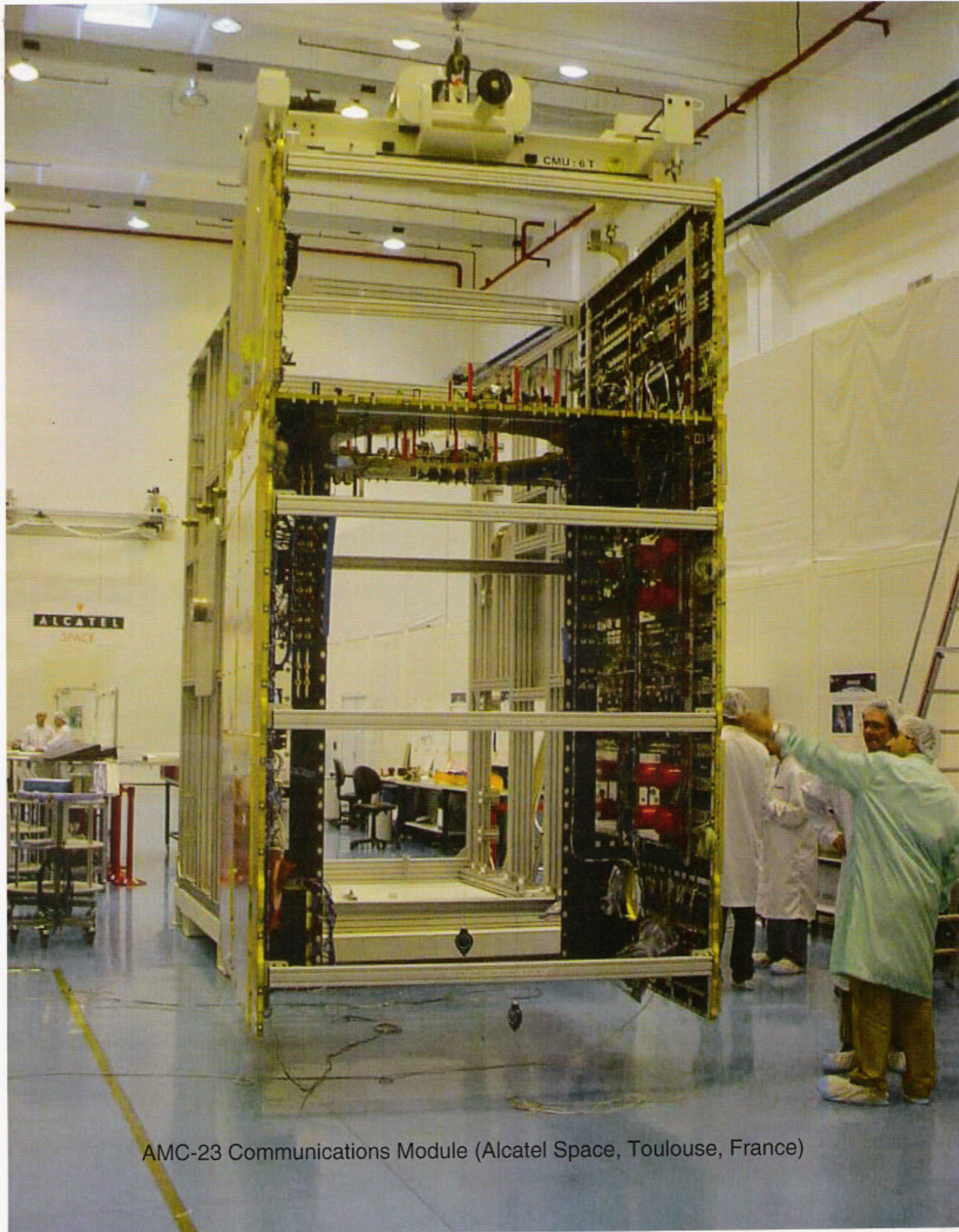
I, Guy Perez, Director, AMC-23 program, certify on behalf of Alcatel Space, 12, rue de la baume 75008 Paris, France, as follows:

1. The AMC-23 spacecraft Critical Design Review (CDR) was successfully completed on October 21, 2004.
2. The contract between Worldsat, LLC, SES AMERICOM, Inc., and Alcatel Space for the construction of AMC-23 executed on 01 November, 2003, remains in effect with no amendments or modifications.
3. Alcatel Space has received payment for construction of AMC-23 for all amounts due through November 30, 2004, and these payments cumulatively represent more than 54% of the total price for the construction of AMC-23.
4. The AMC-23 spacecraft design is 100% complete. The qualification of the spacecraft equipment is approximately 98% complete, and about 65% of the flight equipment has been shipped to the Alcatel Payload facility in Toulouse and the Alcatel Prime Spacecraft facility in Cannes. The Spacecraft Communications Module (CM) and the Spacecraft Service Module (SM) have been in Disassembly (from AMC-13), Manufacturing, Reassembly, and Test, at Toulouse and Cannes respectively, since about November 2003. The CM is currently on schedule to be shipped to Cannes for a CM to SM Mating on January 24, 2005. Once mated, Spacecraft Assembly Integration and Test ("AIT") single line flow will begin. The spacecraft is currently scheduled for launch on November 30, 2005.
5. The attached photographs show the AMC-23 Communication Module currently under AIT in Toulouse and the AMC-23 Service Module in Cannes.

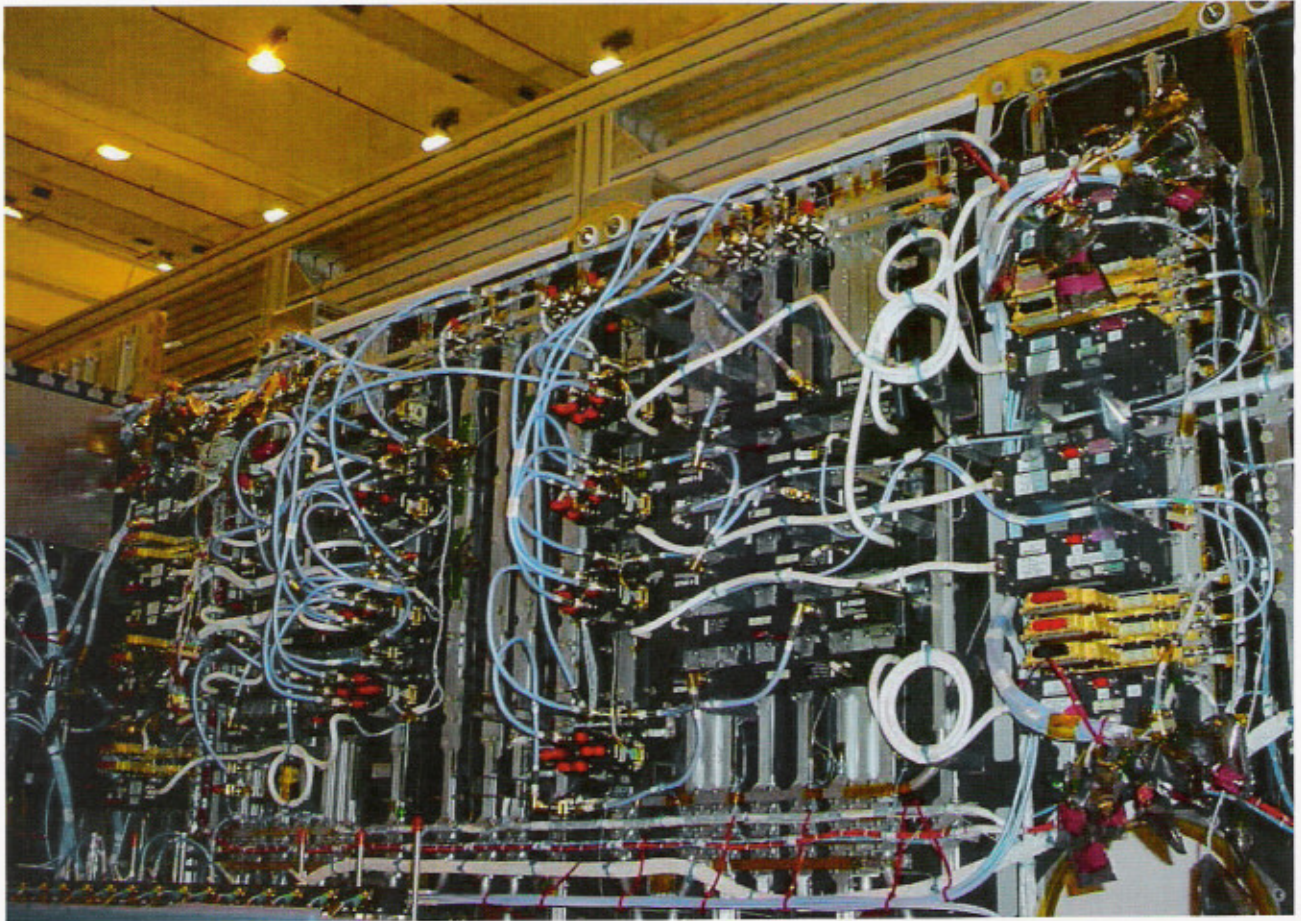


Guy Perez
Director, AMC-23 Program

Date: December 7, 2004

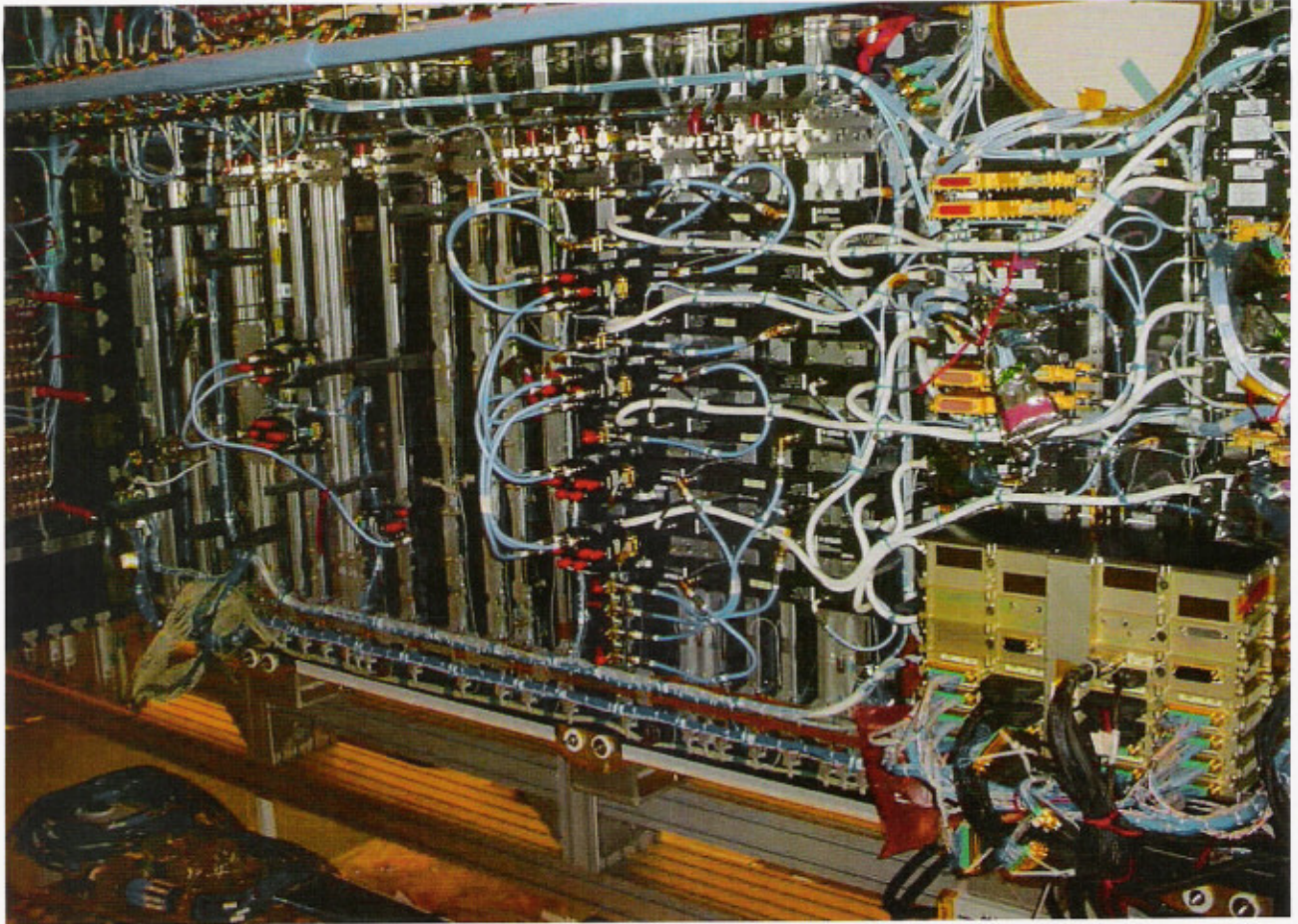


AMC-23 Communications Module (Alcatel Space, Toulouse, France)

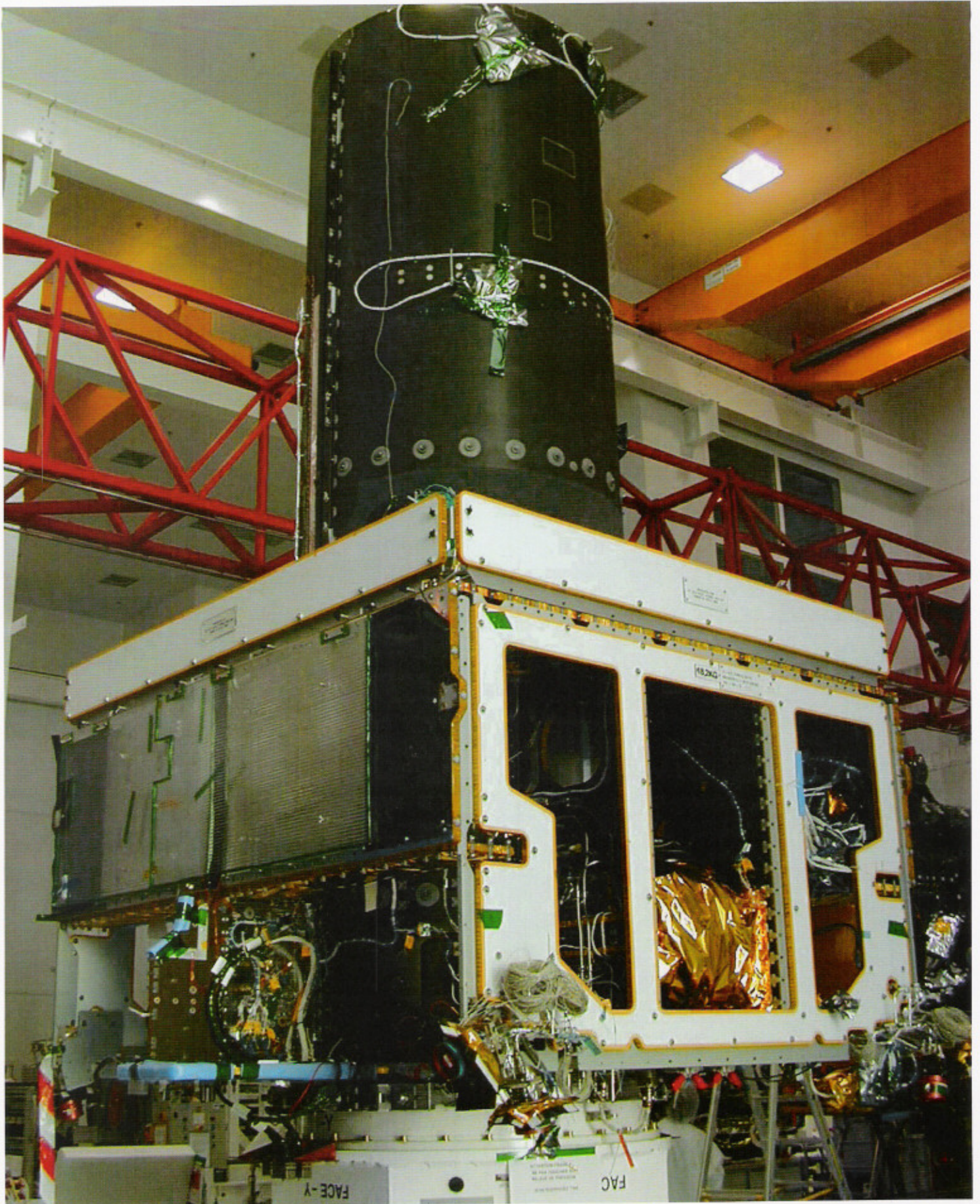


AMC-23 Communications Module (Alcatel Space, Toulouse, France)

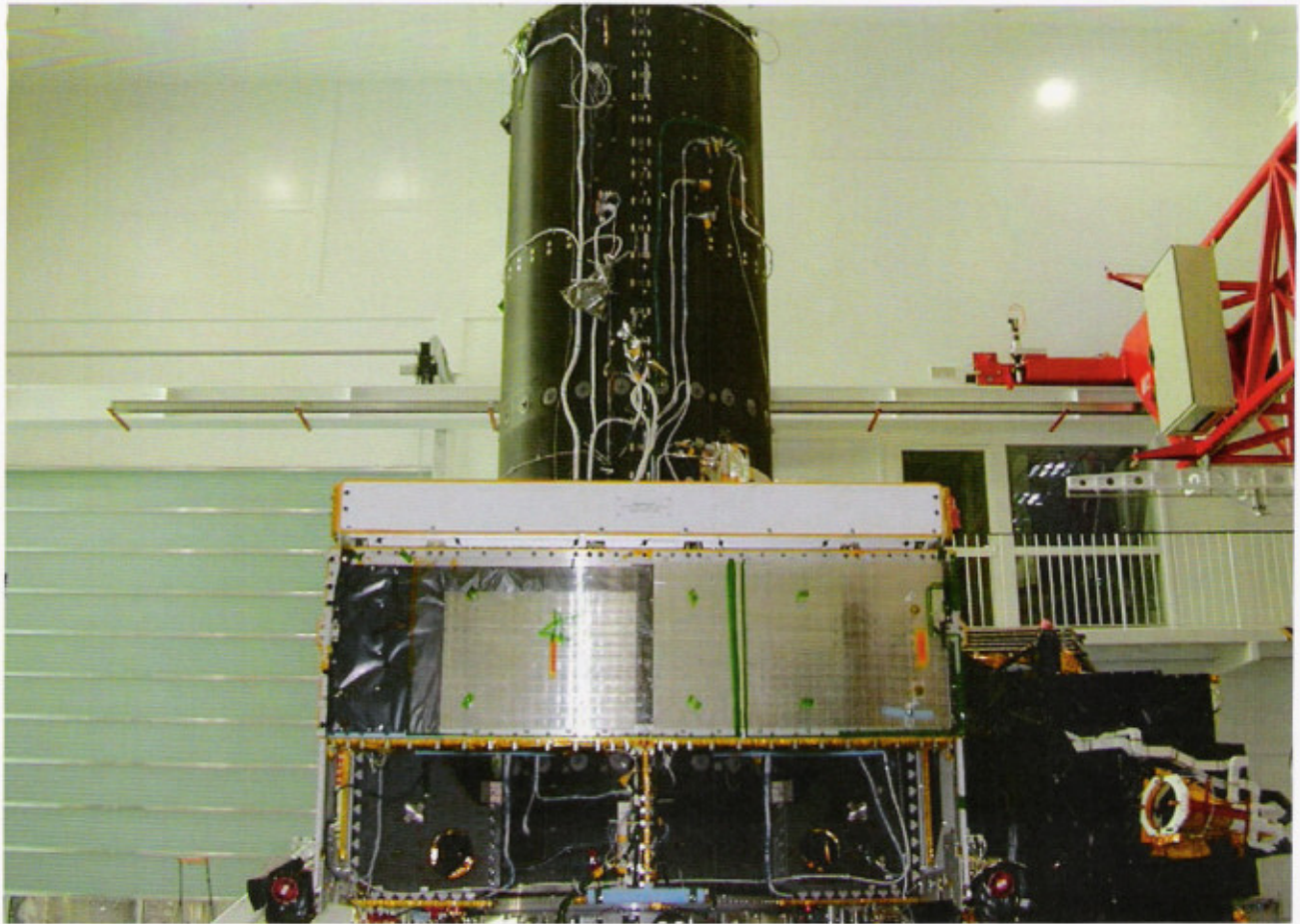
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AMC-23 Communications Module (Alcatel Space, Toulouse, France)



AMC-23 Service Module (Alcatel Space, Cannes, France)



AMC-23 Service Module (Alcatel Space, Cannes, France)