

21 December, 2008

W2M Foreign Customer Satellite

THE MISSION

India's first foreign satellite W2M on-board the Ariane-5 lifted-off from Kourou, French Guiana at 4:05 AM (IST) on December 21, 2008. W2M is a state-of-the-art Communication Satellite built by ISRO on a commercial basis in partnership with EADS-Astrium of Europe.

The aim of the alliance between EADS Astrium and ANTRIX / ISRO which builds on the proven expertise of both Indian and European companies, is to jointly offer communication satellites in the market segment around 4 kW of payload power and with a launch mass of 2 to 3 tons. This cooperation combining Indian platforms along with European payloads is designed to offer optimal, flexible and cost-effective solutions to telecommunications operators.





W2M THE SATELLITE

W2M satellite weighing 3,463 kg at lift-off is the heaviest satellite built by ISRO and is capable of operating for over 15 years. It is positioned at the orbital slot of 16^o East in the Geostationary Orbit. It carries 32 high power Ku-band transponders for telecommunications and broadcasting services over Europe, Middle East and North Africa.

W2M project was undertaken in the context of an accord signed during the visit of the President of France on February 20, 2006, at New Delhi between Antrix Corporation Ltd., the commercial arm of the ISRO and EADS Astrium to jointly build and deliver a communication satellite W2M to Eutelsat Communications, which is a global satellite communication service provider. Astrium had the responsibility for overall program management and delivery of the communications payload and Antrix / ISRO provided the satellite bus.



SPECIFICATIONS

3463 kg
Solar Array: 7000 W Batteries: Li-Ion 128 Ah
3-axis body stabilized using Momentum / Reaction Wheels, Magnetic Torquers, Sensors and Thrusters
Communication
32 High Power Ku-band Transponders
15 Years







