

**Contribution to the RSPG Public consultation on
the draft RSPG Opinion on *“The Introduction of
Multimedia Services in particular in the frequency
bands allocated to the broadcasting services”***

July 14th, 2006

Viatis Satellite Radio ("Viatis") is the European subsidiary of WorldSpace, Inc. ("WorldSpace"), a pioneer of satellite-based digital radio services. WorldSpace currently provides satellite radio services to subscribers around the world, delivering a unique combination of original WorldSpace content and syndications from leading global brands such as the BBC, CNN, RFI, Virgin Radio UK, NDTV and many more.

Viatis is developing a phased, Europe-wide satellite radio and multimedia service to fixed, portable and mobile receivers, on the basis of a hybrid (satellite/terrestrial) network. This hybrid network will operate in the frequency range 1479.5-1492 MHz, harmonized for satellite radio through CEPT Decision ECC/DEC/(03)/02. Viatis recently awarded a contract to Sodielec, a French manufacturer, for the development and construction of complementary terrestrial repeaters. Once operational, the hybrid network will comply with the "SDR" (Satellite Digital Radio) standard currently under development by ETSI, with final adoption expected in September 2006.

The group already has at its disposal an operational geostationary satellite, and a second one is already constructed, and is ready to be launched - to broadcast subscription-based bouquets of more than 50 innovative radio channels and multimedia services per country, covering a wide range of exclusive talk, information and commercial-free music content tailored to national audiences. The Group's business plan is underpinned by recent market surveys, covering more than 12,000 consumers in Europe, which demonstrate an unmet consumer demand for the innovative services that satellite radio can deliver.

The Viatis satellite radio service will initially target the five main Western European markets - i.e., Italy, Spain, France, Germany and the UK - where Viatis and WorldSpace currently have a corporate presence. The Group is in a pre-operational phase in Italy, where it is executing plans to launch a commercial service by end-2007, and intends to launch services in additional markets as early as 2008, subject to regulatory clearances in those markets.

Viatis' business and execution plans are made possible by the existing regulatory certainty prevailing in the frequency band 1479.5-1492 MHz. The Group is therefore pleased to support the views and amendments proposed by SAP REG to the section of the draft Opinion relating to the development of S-DAB services in the L band.

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