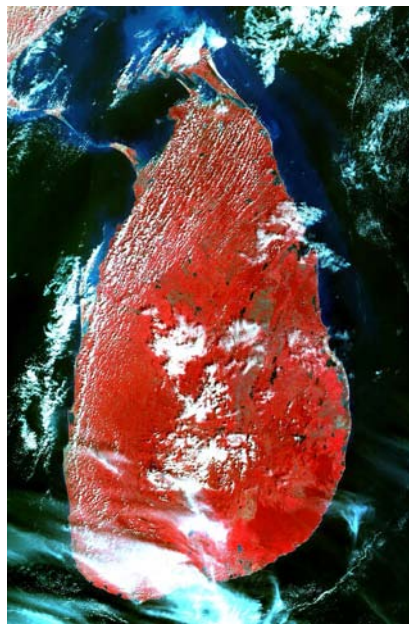


**Press Release**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2009

### **Sri Lanka signs agreement with SSTL for space capability**

The Director General of the Sri Lankan Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, Priyantha Kariyapperuma and Professor Sir Martin Sweeting of Surrey Satellite Technology Limited (SSTL), signed a landmark agreement today. This agreement starts a Sri Lankan national space capability by providing an SSTL Earth Observation satellite and commencing the definition and design of Sri Lanka's first communications satellite.



**Image of Sri Lanka taken by UK-DMC**

Peter Hayes, the British High Commissioner in Sri Lanka recognised the value of the agreement, saying "This project is exciting for the development of telecommunications in Sri Lanka and will strengthen the ties between the two countries."

The programme, including a training and development programme and collaborative activities between the University of Surrey and leading Sri Lankan academic institutes, will promote academic, industrial and socio-economic development. The project has been

approved by the Sri Lankan government under the personal direction of His Excellency, President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Professor Sir Martin Sweeting, who also chairs the Space Centre of the University of Surrey, said “Sri Lanka has already demonstrated a keen interest in space based technology, supported through numerous programmes within the country’s universities and other academic organisations such as the Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Modern Technologies. Our close partnership will allow Sri Lanka to fully embrace the benefits of space technology through training and education while stimulating industrial development. The economic benefits resulting from space based communications including TV, broadband services and earth observation applications are substantial and will positively contribute to the country’s development as a “high-tech” trading nation”.



**The signing ceremony in Colombo, Sri Lanka. (left-right) Peter Hayes, British High Commissioner, Priyantha Kariyapperuma Director General of the Sri Lankan Telecommunications Regulatory Commission TRC and Sir Martin Sweeting, Chairman of Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd.**

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), SSTL will provide an Earth observation capability and start work on a geostationary communications satellite. By partnering with SSTL for Earth observation, Sri Lanka will become an important member of the Disaster Monitoring Constellation (DMC) with the ability to participate in international disaster relief support activities coordinated by the United Nations through the International Charter. SSTL will also advise on the establishment of the Sri Lanka Space Agency (SLASA), building on SSTL’s experience of supporting the formation of five previous national agencies.

The Director General of the Sri Lankan Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, Priyantha Kariyapperuma welcomed the agreement, saying “Universities here in Sri Lanka

have developed a programme of strong engineering research. Given that the UK is the most preferred destination for academic professionals working in technological fields to further their development, I am delighted that the opportunities created through this programme will serve to bring the two nations closer together.”

### **About SSTL**

Surrey Satellite Technology Limited (SSTL) is the world's leading small satellite company, delivering operational space missions for a range of applications including Earth observation, science and communications. The company design, manufacture and operate high performance satellites and ground systems for a fraction of the price normally associated with spacecraft, with 300 staff working on turnkey satellite platforms, space-proven satellite subsystems and optical instruments.

Since 1981 SSTL has launched 34 satellites as well as providing training and development programmes, consultancy services, and mission studies for ESA, NASA and commercial customers, changing the economics of space.

Based in Guildford, UK, SSTL is owned by EADS Astrium NV.

[www.sstl.co.uk](http://www.sstl.co.uk)

### **Notes to editor:**

This press release can be downloaded as a Word or Pdf document at the following url:  
[http://www.sstl.co.uk/News\\_and\\_events/Latest\\_News](http://www.sstl.co.uk/News_and_events/Latest_News)

Two supporting images are available to support this press release, both are high resolution JPEG images larger than 2mb upon request.

**Caption 1:** Image of Sri Lanka taken by UK-DMC

**Caption 2:** The signing ceremony in Colombo, Sri Lanka. (left-right) Peter Hayes, British High Commissioner, Priyantha Kariyapperuma Director General of the Sri Lankan Telecommunications Regulatory Commission TRC and Sir Martin Sweeting, Chairman of Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd.

### **SSTL Contact:**

Joelle Sykes, Surrey Satellite Technology Limited  
Tel: +44 (0)1483 804243 Email: [j.sykes@sstl.co.uk](mailto:j.sykes@sstl.co.uk)

### **Press Contact:**

Robin Wolstenholme, Ballard Communications Management (BCM)  
Tel: +44 (0)1306 882288 Email: [r.wolstenholme@ballard.co.uk](mailto:r.wolstenholme@ballard.co.uk)