

Press Release

28 May 2015

SSTL opens new Spacecraft Operations Centre

Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL) welcomed Michael Boyd, Managing Director of Investment, UK Trade and Investment, and Peter Martin, Deputy Leader of Surrey County Council, to the Company's Guildford Headquarters site on 27 May 2015. SSTL's Group Managing Director, Patrick Wood, hosted the visit which included a tour of The Kepler Building where SSTL is currently assembling more than 20 spacecraft.



Patrick Wood, Peter Martin and Michael Boyd outside SSTL's new Spacecraft Operations Centre

The visit coincided with the completion of SSTL's new Spacecraft Operations Centre (SOC) and Michael Boyd was given the honour of cutting the ribbon on the new facility.



Michael Boyd cutting the ribbon to officially open SSTL's new Spacecraft Operations Centre

SSTL's MD, Patrick Wood, commented "I am delighted to host both Michael Boyd and Peter Martin for a tour of SSTL's facilities and, in particular, to showcase our new Spacecraft Operations Centre, which is going to be the focus of intense activity later this summer when we launch a further 4 satellites into orbit."

SSTL's Spacecraft Operations Centre is the control hub containing the infrastructure necessary to track, command, control and downlink data from SSTL's orbiting satellites, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The new SOC offers a larger and significantly enhanced work environment for the operators as well a more efficient layout to better support SSTL's space missions. The SOC is also used to support several of SSTL customers' spacecraft operations, either by acting as a secondary SOC or as backup to their own SOCs when they carry out essential maintenance or upgrades.



SSTL's new Spacecraft Operations Centre

SSTL's SOC is connected primarily to the two ground stations operated by SSTL in the UK, but it is also designed to be able to securely communicate with the satellites through a number of ground stations located around the world. It is designed to operate in a highly efficient "lights-out" mode requiring minimal operator intervention by using automated computer-controlled routines to manage the exchange of data between the ground stations and the satellites, and to autonomously monitor the health of the satellites.

The SOC will become the focus of intense activity later this summer when another 4 SSTL satellites are due to be launched and the Operations team in Guildford will be manning the computer terminals to undertake the first phase of commissioning the satellites in-orbit – firstly establishing contact and then conducting a series of tests and operations designed to check that all the spacecraft's systems are working correctly.

Surrey County Council Deputy Leader Peter Martin said: "The facilities are really are out of this world and I have no doubt they will be the nerve centre for many



successful missions. Our role is to help SSTL and all Surrey's other businesses succeed, whether that's here in Surrey, globally or indeed in space, and do what they do best – create jobs and promote growth.”

Notes to editor:

Accompanying images for this press release can be downloaded at <http://www.sstl.co.uk/News-and-Events>

This press release can be downloaded as a Word or PDF document at <http://www.sstl.co.uk/News-and-Events>

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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 designs, manufactures and operates high performance satellites and ground systems for a fraction of the price normally associated with space missions, with over 500 staff working on turnkey satellite platforms, space-proven satellite subsystems and optical instruments.

Since 1981, SSTL has built and launched 43 satellites – as well as providing training and development programmes, consultancy services, and mission studies for ESA, NASA, international governments and commercial customers, with an innovative approach that is changing the economics of space.

Headquartered in Guildford, UK, SSTL is part of the Airbus Group.

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