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Vodafone and AST SpaceMobile's new joint venture satellite company (SatCo) focused on delivering space-based cellular broadband connectivity to be headquartered in Luxembourg.

Vodafone Group and AST SpaceMobile Inc. ("AST SpaceMobile") (NASDAQ: ASTS) today announced that their new joint venture satellite company, SatCo, will be headquartered in Luxembourg, creating a European sovereign integrated satellite service. AST SpaceMobile is building the first and only space-based cellular broadband network accessible directly by everyday smartphones, designed for both commercial and government application.

Luxembourg's strong digital credentials and strategic location provide SatCo with the ideal platform from which to exclusively distribute AST SpaceMobile's satellite services to European mobile network operators under a single turnkey arrangement. SatCo's wholesale offering of direct-to-device mobile broadband satellite services, which complement terrestrial networks, has generated expressions of interest from network operators in 21 EU member states, as well as in other European markets. Commercial services are expected to begin in 2026.

Vodafone and AST SpaceMobile are in close contact with the Luxembourg Government, key European policymakers, EU Member States, and industry stakeholders to advance national and European digital sovereignty by promoting a cohesive space strategy. SatCo will forge private and public sector partnerships that will position Europe as a leader in the provision of direct-to-mobile space-based broadband connectivity. This will provide the region with a secure and resilient digital communications infrastructure for use in any location, including mountains or at sea, at any time.

Margherita Della Valle, CEO of Vodafone, said: "This is an important initiative for Europe. Our service will ensure all European citizens, businesses, and governments enjoy uninterrupted, ubiquitous mobile broadband connectivity across the whole continent. Europe can take the lead in new direct-to-device mobile broadband technology."

The planned establishment of SatCo was announced in March this year by Vodafone and AST SpaceMobile. This unique solution is being led by Europe, from Luxembourg, and will benefit the EU's Digital Decade 2030 targets.

Mr. Lex Delles, Minister of the Economy, SME, Energy and Tourism of Luxembourg, stated: *"The establishment of SatCo's headquarters in Luxembourg further reinforces the key role of our country as a hub to deploy innovative solutions serving the whole EU single market and its citizens. I welcome to Luxembourg AST SpaceMobile, a leading international player joining our thriving space sector, and I am glad that this project continues to strengthen the long-standing relationship between Vodafone and Luxembourg."*

Ms Elisabeth Margue, Minister delegate to the Prime Minister for Media and Connectivity, said: *"Assuring ubiquitous coverage of mobile broadband connectivity for all users in Luxembourg and in areas of Europe is a key objective for the Luxembourg Government. As such, we welcome the decision of Vodafone and AST SpaceMobile to choose Luxembourg as their European headquarters, enriching the connectivity ecosystem by developing innovative services based on terrestrial and satellite infrastructure. We are looking forward to the local deployment and leverage of competencies and skills by the new entity, enabling a commercially successful service deployment on a worldwide basis."*

*"With SatCo now based in Luxembourg, Vodafone and AST SpaceMobile are strengthening Europe's position in direct-to-mobile satellite services and advancing digital independence,"* said Abel Avellan, Founder, Chairman, and CEO of AST SpaceMobile. *"This joint venture supports European digital sovereignty by creating a unified platform to deliver satellite connectivity across the continent. Together, we are building secure, resilient cellular broadband infrastructure to serve Europe's connectivity needs—anywhere, anytime."*

The Luxembourg-headquartered venture will deploy a small network of earth stations that integrate with operators of existing 4G/5G terrestrial networks, providing secure backhaul links, as well as extended coverage across Europe from the AST SpaceMobile satellite constellation in low Earth orbit. This will enable users to switch automatically between space and land-based networks.