

Briefs: Telesat plans Canada digital TV satellite

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Telesat Tuesday announced plans for a new satellite that will provide digital television services to Canada.

The Nimiq 4 satellite will be launched in 2008 and will handle high-definition and specialty broadcasts on behalf of Bell ExpressVu, a division of Bell Canada.

The spacecraft weighs in a nearly 5 tons and carries 32 Ku-band transponders along with eight Ka-band transponders.

European manufacturer EADS Astrium will build Nimiq 4. The launch will be carried out by International Launch Systems. Telesat will operate the bird once it reaches geostationary orbit at 82 degrees west.

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