

Bangladesh plans to build its first satellite

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(AP) -- An American firm will help Bangladesh design and launch the South Asian country's first satellite.

Officials say Space Partnership International signed a \$10 million consultancy deal with the state-run Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission in Dhaka on Thursday.

SPI Managing Director Bruce D. Kraselsky says his Maryland-based company will design the satellite and hire a company to build and launch it. He says Bangladesh wants to launch the satellite by 2015.

Bangladesh says the satellite would improve its [telecommunications services](#), collect [meteorological data](#) for disaster warnings and map natural resources.

[Bangladesh](#) says the satellite may cost \$150 million. It spends \$11 million a year renting foreign satellites.

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