

Sea Launch rocket lofts Eutelsat satellite

December 3 2012

(AP)—Sea Launch AG says it has placed a communication satellite into orbit for global provider Eutelsat.

A Zenit-3SL rocket carrying the Eutelsat-70B satellite lifted off from [Sea Launch](#)'s oceangoing platform in the equatorial Pacific at 12:43 p.m. PST (20:43 GMT) Monday.

Sea Launch says the satellite successfully separated and a ground station acquired its first signals from orbit.

The satellite will provide coverage over Europe, Africa, Central Asia and [Southeast Asia](#) as far as Australia. It's expected to go into service in January and is designed to last more than 15 years.

Switzerland-based Sea Launch sends its self-propelled launch platform and a command ship from their homeport in Long Beach, Calif., to the equator, where heavy payloads can more easily be lofted into orbit.

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