



INTELSAT – SES MERGER SOON



Two of the biggest satellite companies are expected to merge. SES is in talks with IntelSat.

SES said: “In response to rumours in the market, SES SA confirms that the company has engaged in discussions regarding a possible combination with IntelSat. At this stage, there can be no certainty that a transaction would materialise. The Board of SES remains fully committed to acting in the best interest of SES and its shareholders.”

The combined company, which includes the European fleet of Astra satellites, would be valued at £10 billion.

Any deal would require the approval of the Luxembourg government, the largest shareholder in SES.

BROADBAND SURGE IN SPAIN



There is a broadband surge in connectivity across Spain. Most of the Spanish territory will be within reach of 100 Mbps fixed broadband coverage by 2024.

Nine in ten homes can already receive such services.

The broadband coverage updated to June 2022 also indicates that the digital divide has been reduced by 18 percentage points.

It is also forecast to fall by a further six percentage points by the end of this year.

In 2022, coverage of more than 100 Mbps at peak times reached 89.96% of homes, with an increase of 1.65 percentage points, a figure that rose to 90.18% of homes depending on the technology used.

Meanwhile, 5G coverage in Spain has almost doubled in the past year.

BBC IN FINANCIAL TURMOIL?



BBC is in the midst of a financial turmoil as BBC has published its annual plan; with a reduction of around 1,000 hours, a year in new content commissions as the corporation looks to plug a gap in its finances.

It is projected the BBC will receive £3,673 million in licence fee income and £1,865 million from other sources. Once operating costs are taken into account this leaves a deficit of £352 million for the year.

“The 23/24 budget has been set during a period of exceptional economic volatility,” the BBC explained in its Annual Plan. There are ambitions to expand commercial activities to deliver a “sustainable quality of earnings”.

The UK audiences continue to spend more time watching BBC TV and iPlayer than Netflix, Disney+ and Amazon Prime Video combined. ■

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