

Measat inks RM1b deal for new satellite

PETALING JAYA: Measat Global Bhd has entered into a contract to procure its fourth satellite from French maker Astrium SAS to support growth in new markets.

The MEASAT-3b satellite will have a contractual life of 15 years and is expected to be launched at end-2013.

The programme is

expected to cost around RM1 billion.

“By more than doubling our Ku-Band capacity at 91.5°E, the MEASAT-3b satellite will allow the group to continue to meet the increasing requirements of our Direct to Home (DTH) and telecommunication customers in Malaysia and across the

region,” chairman Datuk Umar Abu said in a statement yesterday.

The MEASAT-3b will also “add further redundancy” to Measat’s fleet and improve services to customers across Malaysia, Indonesia and India.

“The satellite has also been designed to support a fourth market,” Umar said.

Measat currently supports five DTH platforms in Malaysia, Indonesia, India and Brunei, providing pay-TV services to more than 10 million households.

The new satellite will allow it to expand support to existing customers while supporting growth into new markets. — by **IZWAN IDRIS**