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Ghana prepares to host the international jury meeting of the DSTV Eutelsat Star Awards

Third edition of pan African schools competition attracts entries from 14 countries across the continent

Paris, Johannesburg, 16 December 2013 - Following the success of the national judging of this year's entries to the DSTV Eutelsat Star Awards, MultiChoice Africa and Eutelsat announce that the international jury meeting of this pan-African schools competition will be held in Ghana on 5 February 2014. This year's jury will be chaired by the Italian ESA astronaut, Paolo Nespoli who undertook his first flight into space in 2007 on the *Discovery* Space Shuttle before spending over five months in space aboard the International Space Station where he was responsible for a range of scientific and technological experiments and educational activities.

"Africa is by far still a continent of contradictions with pockets of world-class innovation co-existing with a lack of resources and skills, particularly in fields which require maths and science," said Nico Meyer, CEO of MultiChoice Africa. "As a company born and bred in Africa, MultiChoice recognises that technology will be one of the key drivers of the continent's growth story and that Africans need an education system that will produce young people who are creative and innovative thinkers who can think out of the box. What are needed are world-class scientists, engineers and businesses with skills to take the continent to the next level of innovation."

Michel de Rosen, Chairman and CEO of Eutelsat Communications, added: "Now in its third year, the DSTV Eutelsat Star Awards shine a spotlight on how scientific principles can be applied to Africa's development. They enable high-school students to reflect on the use of technology and underscore the importance of developing a new generation of technologically-savvy Africans who will further transform their continent. We look forward to the outcome of who will come tops in the search for Africa's next generation of thinkers."

MultiChoice and Eutelsat selected Accra as the host city for this year's judging and awards ceremony, following Johannesburg and Dar es Salaam for the first and second editions of the event. Ghana has made significant progress towards attaining its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on the eradication of extreme poverty, universal primary education, promotion of gender equality, empowerment of women, and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Equally, as something to celebrate, Ghana is preparing for its third FIFA World Cup in succession, having qualified again for one of the world's most watched sports competitions, to be held in Brazil in 2014.

Two months before Africa's brightest stars battle it out in Ghana for the coveted prizes, which for the poster winner is a trip for two to visit Eutelsat's headquarters in Paris and for the essay a visit to see a rocket take off into space, Paolo Nespoli encourages Africa's youth to reach for their dreams: "You have to make your dreams real and education is key to dreams becoming reality. Looking at planet earth from space is an exhilarating experience – it motivates you to overcome barriers and all odds to travel the world. You realise that the earth is small and fragile and that it needs to be cared for and nurtured."

About Eutelsat Communications

With capacity commercialised on 31 satellites delivering reach of Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, significant parts of the Americas and the Asia-Pacific, Eutelsat Communications (Euronext Paris: ETL, ISIN code: FR0010221234) is one of the world's leading satellite operators. As of 30 September 2013, Eutelsat's satellites were broadcasting more than 4,700 television channels to over 200 million cable and satellite homes in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The Group's satellites also provide a wide range of services for TV contribution, corporate networks and fixed and mobile broadband markets. Headquartered in Paris, Eutelsat and its subsidiaries employ over 780 commercial, technical and operational professionals from 30 countries. www.eutelsat.com

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About MultiChoice Africa

MultiChoice Africa Limited ("MultiChoice Africa") is an African pioneer of pay TV services in sub-Saharan Africa, having launched the first digital satellite service in the 1980s. The company is registered in Mauritius, and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Naspers Group. MultiChoice Africa provides multi-channel digital pay television services containing channels from Africa, America, China, India, Asia and Europe. The company has over twenty years experience as a Pay TV operator in Africa, offering cutting-edge digital technology and a selection of DStv bouquets containing premium television channels for subscribers in 47 African countries and the adjacent Indian Ocean islands.

MultiChoice Africa provides its digital satellite television service – DStv - to subscribers' homes from two different satellites, namely: the Intelsat 7 ("IS 7") Ku Band and EUTELSAT 36B (formerly W7") Ku Band.

MultiChoice Africa provides a dynamic technology platform and assembles a range of bouquets built around compelling news, as well as premium movies, documentaries and sports channels for subscribers. Our mission is to constantly be at the cutting edge of new technology that enables DStv subscribers to enjoy the very best home television experience.

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