



“All Systems GO!” for the DStv Eutelsat Star Awards in Zambia

Lusaka, 27 January 2015 – It’s “All Systems GO!” for the winners of the fourth edition of the **DStv Eutelsat Star Awards** to be announced at the awards ceremony in Lusaka, Zambia on February 10. This unique pan-African schools competition has attracted over 3000 entries from 19 countries across the continent and has invigorated a passion for science amongst the younger generation. The top entries from each country will be judged by a distinguished jury that will select a winner and a runner-up for each category.

For the 2014 edition, MultiChoice and Eutelsat have once again enlisted European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut Paolo Nespoli to lead the continental awards judging which will take place in Livingstone, Zambia on February 9. Nespoli, an aerospace engineer from Italy, is an astronaut of the European Space Agency, and flew in space twice: with NASA on the Space Shuttle Discovery in 2007 in a 15-day mission to build the International Space Station, and again in 2010-2011 when, after a launch with the Russian vehicle Soyuz, he spent five and a half months in space carrying out a variety of scientific, technological and educational activities.

With astronaut Paolo Nespoli there will be a panel of distinguished industry and education experts from across Africa, including: Dr. Jacob O Ashong, Director (also Higher Education Consultant) at the Ghana Science Project and Planetarium; Christine Mugimba, Head of Spectrum Management at the Uganda Communications Commission; Professor Steve Simukanga, Vice Chancellor of the University of Zambia as well as a representative from MultiChoice Africa and Eutelsat.

Commenting on his second year of chairing the jury, Paolo Nespoli said: *“It was an uplifting experience last year to engage with African students and to discuss their ideas and optimism with the jury members of the DStv Eutelsat Star Awards. I look forward to this year’s event in Zambia and to helping inspire students to dream big and reach for the stars.”*

Zambia, the host country, is hoping for a repeat of last year’s awards ceremony in Ghana where Zambian teenager Francine Mazala scooped top honours in the essay category. She has since gone on to visit a rocket launch site in French Guiana as part of her prize. Prior to entering the competition, the 18 year old former Mpelembe Secondary School learner had little knowledge of satellite technology but was encouraged by the fact that her school produced a country winner in the 2012 competition. This, coupled with her passion to enter led her to do a lot of research on satellite technology to increase her chances of capturing the jury’s attention.

About the DStv Eutelsat Star Awards

The DStv Eutelsat Star Awards encourages 14-19 year-old students to write an essay or design a poster on a satellite-related topic. Country winners from across Africa then compete in the overall awards for a trip to the Eutelsat facilities in Paris, with the essay winner travelling onwards to witness a live rocket launch. Runners-up win a trip to South Africa as guests of MultiChoice Africa and the South African National Space Agency at Hartebeesthoek. Schools attended by the overall winners also receive a DStv installation, including dish, television, state-of-the-art PVR decoder and free access to the DStv Education Bouquet. Winners at national levels win prizes such as computers or tablets.

Follow the journey to the finals on Twitter: **#DStvEutelSatStarAwards** @DStvZambia @DStvNG @DStv_Ghana @DStv_Kenya @DStvtz

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 provides multi-channel multi-platform 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 and GOtv bouquets containing premium television channels for subscribers in 50 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 20 ("IS 20") Ku BAND and Eutelsat 36B Ku Band. The GOtv offering is on a DTT (DVB-T2) network which was established in 2011 and currently covers nine countries.

For more about MultiChoice Africa please visit www.dstv.com

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About Eutelsat Communications (www.eutelsat.com)

Established in 1977, Eutelsat Communications (Euronext Paris: ETL, ISIN code: FR0010221234) is one of the world's leading and most experienced operators of communications satellites. The company provides capacity on 35 satellites to clients that include broadcasters and broadcasting associations, pay-TV operators, video, data and Internet service providers, enterprises and government agencies. Eutelsat's satellites provide ubiquitous coverage of Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Americas, enabling video, data, broadband and government communications to be established irrespective of a user's location. Headquartered in Paris, with offices and teleports around the globe, Eutelsat represents a workforce of 1,000 men and women from 32 countries who are experts in their fields and work with clients to deliver the highest quality of service.

For further information

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