

Part of Round Table Discussion: Connecting the Unconnected via Satellite – Focus on Caspian Sea and Central Asia Region

Questions for the representative of Azerbaijan

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Good day to everyone, to all speakers and the delegation who joined us virtually. Firstly, I would like to thank the NatSatTel event organizer Intersputnik for inviting me to this conference as a speaker. You are organizing this event virtually and giving opportunity to all delegates to join this event and to share their experiences. And also I would like to thank Andrey for giving information about ITU WTDC-25 event which will be held in my home country. I will be very happy to meet all of you in my country. I want to make sure you that you will enjoy the hospitality of Azerbaijan.

Question 1. Do you have any local example of providing broadband access for connecting the unconnected by way of satellite communications?

Answer 1. Sure, we have our local example of providing broadband access in our country. Our country works very hard to make sure nobody left behind. It's very important for us the universal telecom connection to be extended to all areas of our country. These days, our country benefits from the rapidly developing global NGSO telecom industry. It is necessary to optimally integrate satellite services into the country's interconnected public telecom network. Azerbaijan's digital transformation goes in a proactive and balanced manner, keeping in mind also security requirements. Meaningful connection should take into account increase in individuals' mobility. Therefore, there is a valid expectation of growing demand for mobile satellite terminals in the market. The Azerbaijan's national satellite operator – Azercosmos offers continuous, high-speed and secure satellite broadband internet to remote and rural areas in Azerbaijan – Azconnexus, this is our local example for providing broadband access. Azconnexus services provide high-throughput access to locations, where terrestrial broadband is lacking, and essential internet in remote areas. Azconnexus satellite internet is available to users in government institutions, at sea, on land, on railways and other transport lines, in remote and all areas. The satellite terminals, earth stations or VSAT should be accessible and available in the market same as cellular phones and smart devices. This will enable each person to stay linked with a reliable and secure connection for critical applications, as well as for everyday use, which is even more important. With the support of our Ministry, the Space Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan cooperates with worldwide known satellite operators, as well as regional satellite operators bringing their advanced service into Azerbaijan, arranging for their services' convenient delivery in our country.

Question 2. Is there any space capacity building initiative in Azerbaijan?

Answer 2. We have done a lot of work on capacity building initiatives in Azerbaijan and as well as for space capacity building. I'm happy to share with you that, aiming the capacity building - Space Academy has been established under the Space Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Azercosmos). Our Space Academy organizes national parts of the international competitions and promotes education, organizes trainings, summer and winter schools and raises awareness in space science among pupils, students, young professionals, parents, teachers and also collaborates with industry experts, who share their insights and experiences, guiding them on their journey to becoming a space leader. And also it seeks to promote youth engagement and strengthen Azerbaijan's global standing. Space Academy supports Azerbaijan national team in IAC, local students' participation at the Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum for micro-satellite development.

In addition to this, I'm happy to share with you that this year the "Concept of Digital Development in the Republic of Azerbaijan" has been approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Concept is aimed at improving public administration, accelerating economic development and improving the quality of life of citizens through the use of digital technologies.

And, the President of Azerbaijan has signed "Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2025–2028." The main purpose of this Strategy to promote research in this field, improve information technologies on artificial intelligence and their management mechanisms, ensure the availability of infrastructure, as well as to strengthen qualified human resources. Both mentioned documents were signed in the beginning of this year.

Important work is being done in our country for developing new technologies in Azerbaijan, for achieving capacity building.

Question 3. What is your view about Azerbaijan space industry 17-year progress?

Answer 3. Azerbaijan Space Agency (Azercosmos) was established in 2010 as the first satellite operator in our region. In 2008, Azerbaijan launched the AZERSPACE satellite program in order to benefit from the highly developed GSO telecom satellite industry. We established a successful cooperation business with foreign companies. As you know that, currently, we have 2 satellites in orbit AZERSPACE-1 satellite at 46E and AZERSPACE-2 satellite at 45 E. AZERSPACE satellites fully satisfy our country's demand in GSO Ku telecom services and we export reliable satellite services to Europe, Africa, Central Asia, Middle East and Caucasus. And also I'm happy to share with you that we already notified the frequencies of our satellite network at 46E degree in ITU MIFR. Azerbaijan continues to apply with high quality and nation-wide the world's achievements in the space industry. We focus on providing connectivity, serving as a regional space hub and developing ICT in Azerbaijan. And also our satellite operator Azercosmos offers highly reliable and secure teleport services, including hosting and consultancy services. Our teleport is located in Baku and has the

capability to receive signals via satellite and fibre. Our neighbouring countries may also cooperate with our national satellite operator Azercosmos to use secure teleport services in Europe, Middle East, Central Asia, and Africa in Ku band and C-band.

In addition, I would like to inform you that we will host the Space Technology Conference (STC-2025) on 24-25 April 2025, bringing together key figures from the global space sector. We will be happy to see you at STC-2025 in Baku.