



World at a  
different angle

# Broadband & Satellite Russia Newsletter

*No 106*

*November 01-13, 2015*

# Contents

<b>The SMOTR System will Cost \$1.5 Billion . . . . .</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>VimpelCom Has Towers for Sale . . . . .</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ICT for Winter Universiade 2019 . . . . .</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Express A4 is Ready to be a Guard . . . . .</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>MTS Shifts to HD Voice . . . . .</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>About Us. Contacts . . . . .</b>	<b>5</b>

Sources: ComNews.ru, Vedomosti.ru, Izvestia.ru

---

## ◆ The SMOTR System will Cost \$1.5 Billion

---

The satellite operator Gazprom Space Systems (GSS), Gazprom's subsidiary, made a detailed plan of creating a remote sensing satellite system SMOTR (pipeline monitoring system). Its description can be found in the draft Federal Space Program for 2016-2025, which the Russian Federal Space Agency (Roskosmos) has forwarded to the ministries for approval. The total expenses on creating the SMOTR will be more than \$1.4 billion. The R&D work done for the SMOTR envis-

ages establishing a group of seven satellites to be fully launched into orbit in 2019. Two spacecrafts will ensure the radar observation of the Earth, one is created for electro-optic observation and four – for infra-red observation. The SMOTR will provide the exploration of gas deposits, the monitoring of gas industrial facilities during their construction and operation, control over the extraction and transportation of gas, environmental monitoring and emergency management. ◆

---

## ◆ VimpelCom Has Towers for Sale

---

One of the “big three” Russian mobile operators, VimpelCom, has sent offers to buy the towers where its base stations are located to several infrastructure companies. VimpelCom plans to sell these towers and earn at least \$0.5 billion. A memorandum with this proposal was sent to the independent owners of the cellular infrastructure, namely: Russian Towers, Vertical and Link Development, as reported by VimpelCom's consultants. One of the

buyers may take the Russian Direct Investment Fund as a partner. According to an informed source, the Fund is carefully reviewing VimpelCom's offer and, probably, will soon make VimpelCom a counterproposal. One of VimpelCom's consultants claims that VimpelCom decided to get rid of 9 thousand facilities – antenna mast structures and base station tripods on buildings' roofs. ◆

◆ **ICT for Winter Universiade 2019**

The Russian Ministry of Communications and Mass Media (Minsvyaz) announced an open competition for the ICT and telecom infrastructure system design for preparing and holding the 29th International Winter Universiade 2019 in Krasnoyarsk. The starting contract price is \$327.5 thousand. According to the scope of work, the contractor must also audit the “heritage” of ICT infrastructure used during the Universiade 2013 in Kazan and 2014 Olympics in Sochi, evaluating the chance of using it again during the Universiade 2019. Minsvyaz ac-

cepts applications before 18 November, and the results will be known on 20 November.

The system project of creating ICT and telecom infrastructure at the Universiade 2019 must describe an approach to different requirements related to the designing, creating and installing the ICT infrastructure. Project and management solutions are expected, as well as the list of the required equipment and the necessary expenditures. ◆

◆ **Express A4 is Ready to be a Guard**

After the operational life of Express A2 satellite in the orbital position of 1450 East is ended, this position will be taken by Express A4, which is currently at 140 West. The owner of both satellites, Russian Satellite Communications Company (RSCC), plans to use Express 4 in protecting the orbital and frequency resources at this location. In 2019, a new satellite – Express AMU7 – will be launched to the point of 1450

East. This is what a ComNews reporter found out from Yury Prokhorov, General Director of RSCC.

A quick reminder: at the end of October, RSCC experts started transferring Express A2 to a graveyard orbit. It was necessary because the aircraft ran short of fuel. RSCC used this satellite to provide communications and broadcasting in the orbital positions of 800 East and 1030 East, and in the recent year – 1450 East. ◆

◆ **MTS Shifts to HD Voice**

One of the “big three” Russian mobile operators, MTS, launched HD Voice on GSM networks in the whole Russia. The market experts suppose that, by doing so, the operator wants to gain competitive advantage due to the increasing competition, mainly with the mobile operator Tele2, which newly arrived in Moscow. The new codec AMR-WB (Wide Band AMR) enabled MTS to extend its audio frequency

channel in GSM networks by several times – from the range of 50 Hz up to 7000 Hz and even more. The company does not disclose the amount of investment into launching HD Voice on GSM networks in the whole Russia. ◆

---

## About Us

---

ComNews is the major Russian publisher of business periodicals in the ICT industry and the main worldwide supplier of unbiased accurate information about the Russian ICT business.

ComNews has launched numerous projects in order to deliver unbiased, up-to-date and complete information about the Russian ICT industry across the former USSR countries and worldwide.

ComNews publishes business periodicals, provides companies with exclusive content, studies the market, and holds business events.

ComNews caters for every need for business information and communications of the players in the market of telecoms, broadcasting and IT.

ComNews partners with the major companies and non-commercial associations of market participants. The Media Partner status enables ComNews to distribute its printed matter at the world's largest ICT forums worldwide.

120,000 unique visitors on [ComNews.ru](http://ComNews.ru) portal a month

10,000 readers of the monthly magazine's circulation [\*Standard\*](#)

10,000 copies of the [\*Communications and Broadcasting Encyclopedia\*](#) annually

5,000 copies of [\*Who Is Who in Telecommunications and Broadcasting\*](#) annually

500 clients including major Russian and international ICT companies

over 20 [\*Industry Conferences\*](#) hosted by ComNews

15 years in the market, offices in Moscow and St. Petersburg

---

## Contacts

---

ComNews Moscow  
2/1 Verkhnyaya Krasnoselskaya Ulitsa, Building 1, Office 428  
107140 Moscow, Russia  
Tel.: +7 495 933 5483

ComNews Saint Petersburg  
22 Moskovsky Prospect, Litera L, Office 36N  
190013 St. Petersburg, Russia  
Tel.: +7 812 670 2030

<http://www.comnews.ru>