

**Speech by João Cadete de Matos, Chairman of ANACOM, at the Conference
PORTUGAL AIR SUMMIT 2020, on 21.10.2020, Ponte de Sor**

First, let me thank for the given opportunity to be here today and to participate in such a new and pioneer event as the Portugal Air Summit.

This is the first year that ANACOM attends here with a double hat position, adding the space authority role to the one of national regulatory authority for the electronic and postal communications sectors.

First a few words on our space role:

This regulatory merger is not only an honor but it is most of all a great responsibility for ANACOM, since March 2019, under the terms of the Decree-Law of the space activities.

Undoubtedly, 2019 will remain as the real take off year for the Portuguese space regulatory challenge, which ignition was defined back on 2018, with the Portugal Space Strategy 2030.

This has been the touchstone of the Portuguese New Space endeavor, turning out clear that Portugal has all the conditions to become the new kid on the block of the space markets.

In order to achieve this, we must have a competitive and suitable regulatory framework, as well as an independent, timely and transparent regulator. For 30 years, ANACOM has long been used to regulate a sector that changes at the speed of light, where innovation is permanent and where big players must be regulated. We know that we must keep up with the pace. And so, one year and a half after becoming space authority, ANACOM has entirely assumed its duties and tasks. The first challenge was definitively to issue the Space Activities Regulation, in less than 6 months, which turn out to be a quite unique experience.

Currently, we are in the process of developing our internal resources and capacities so that the Space Authority is able to take full speed activities. But we are ready to start the licensing and registration of Space activities.

Now, I would like to share with you some thoughts on the ongoing developments in the telecom and space sectors.

First, the 2 GHz Mobile Satellite Services, those that provide for instance Internet access on board. The EU is fully engaged in the development of a competitive internal market for these services, aiming at assuring the gradual coverage of all Member States. In fact, the MSS systems are an innovative and an alternative option to several pan-European telecom services, regardless of the location of end-users, such as high-speed Internet access, mobile multimedia services, civil protection and assistance in catastrophes. It is worth mentioning that the INMARSAT European Aviation Network integrated system is currently in the process of being installed, possibly becoming the largest integrated network of air-to-ground and satellite components in the world, designed to provide a broadband experience based in the European aviation industry available to millions of passengers on transcontinental and transoceanic flights. In Portugal, 5 gateways stations linked to this service are already licensed in the mainland.

Second, the New Space systems and applications. We live in the era of the democratization of space. These are times of disruptive technologies, such as 5G and the artificial intelligence (AI), that will make that democratization phenomenon more evident and the space sector will not survive if it remains in a niche market or closed in on itself. Space technology will be integrated with other technologies, becoming a meta-technology focused on creating new service offerings. We recognize that the integration of the satellite component into the mainstream telecommunications network is a key enabler of Digital Transformation in many domains. For this reason, satellites can easily complement exploration and cover remote areas or territories without coverage in such a way as to make data access possible at any time and from anywhere.

Therefore, the ubiquitous connectivity of satellite communications in 5G can be used as an enabler to implement new paradigms within the scope of downstream services. Other space assets, such as Earth Observation and Satellite Navigation, can be used together with 5G, as well as other disruptive technologies, as the Big Data, to provide innovative applications in a variety of vertical markets. The moment is full of opportunities that soon will see the sunlight.

Finally, some words on the telecom sector especially focused on mega constellations. Since 2010 but now on almost a daily basis, we hear about new constellations that are being launched to space, comprising hundreds (eg OneWeb) or thousands (eg SpaceX Starlink) of Low Earth Orbit satellites. These constellations cover a multitude of different services areas

ranging from IoT, M2M, store-and-forward messaging and ship identification system services. So, satellites become an “off the shelf” commodity, in which satellites are acquired faster and much cheaper due to the scale effects that come from the benefits of standardization and industrialization.

Within this context and looking to the national space ecosystem, ANACOM is attuned to the different initiatives promoted by PT Space. As recently mentioned by Minister Manuel Heitor, an initiative is under development which aims to establish, maintain and guarantee the operation of an “Atlantic Constellation”, based on international cooperation and under the coordination of the Atlantic International Research Center - AIR Center, which will integrate some projects already underway, like INFANTE, MAGAL, AEROS, ASTRIS, VIRIATO and CARAVELA, just to mention a few of them.

The objective is to create a unique satellite platform to be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from monitoring sea traffic, fisheries, aquaculture, biodiversity or coastal erosion to climate, communications and testing of orbital technologies. International cooperation will be made with research centers and institutions in Spain, United Kingdom, USA, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa and Nigeria.

So, major challenges lie ahead all of us. ANACOM is engaged to independently assist, regulate and supervise the national space market. But we can only achieve this by constant learning and especially in close cooperation with key entities not only as the Space Agency, NAV and ANAC but also with the Enterprises and the Academia.

For this reason, my last word here today is to those who believed and keep on believing and investing in the Portuguese space sector. There is no turning back. It is in our DNA. Together, I’m sure that we will make these and other things. And, as someone said before, we will make them “not because they are easy, but because they are hard”.

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