



## Viasat Partners with the Centre for Appropriate Technology Ltd and Indigenous Business Australia to Build a Real-Time Earth Ground Station in Australia

- *Alice Springs, Australia Facility Expected to Bring New Jobs and Economic Opportunities to Indigenous Australia*
- *Real-Time Earth System will Enable the Delivery of Valuable Earth Observation and Remote Sensing Data in a More Timely, Affordable Way*

**MELBOURNE, June 11, 2019** – Building on its existing presence in Australia, [Viasat Inc.](#) (NASDAQ: VSAT), a global communications company, announced today its plans to launch a Real-Time Earth (RTE) facility in Alice Springs, Australia. Viasat has partnered with the [Centre for Appropriate Technology Ltd](#) (CfAT), an Aboriginal not-for-profit science and technology company based in Alice Springs, which will build and own the facility through its wholly-owned commercial subsidiary CfAT Satellite Enterprises Pty Ltd, and Indigenous Business Australia (IBA), an Australian Commonwealth commercially-focused government authority, which will help finance the project and provide related commercial advice and support.

This multi-million dollar investment in Alice Springs will enable Central Australia to be a key player in the burgeoning global satellite and space industry, and Indigenous Australians to be leading participants in the sector. The investment is also strongly aligned with the priorities for the Australian Space Agency which is seeking to increase opportunities within Australia's space industry and develop world-leading core satellite infrastructure.

The Viasat RTE system will be a hybrid space and ground network that is expected to bring affordability and reduced latency to earth observation and remote sensing applications. The Viasat RTE network is typically used by low earth orbit (LEO) satellite operators to bring end-users—environmental, shipping, oil and gas, government among other industries—access to data on demand without the need to invest in a dedicated antenna system.

Dr. Steve Rogers, CEO of CfAT Ltd said, "Working with Viasat and IBA on the development of the RTE facility demonstrates the capacity of CfAT to continue to contribute positively to technology and critical space advancements in outback Australia. The development will provide a positive contribution to the local economy through contract opportunities for local businesses during the facility construction phase, and ongoing employment opportunities for local Aboriginal people once operational—as the CfAT facilities management team will be providing on-going site maintenance."

"IBA's investment in Viasat's RTE facility alongside our Indigenous partner, CfAT, is a light-house project that shows the world that Aboriginal people can be at the forefront of new technology industries in Australia," said Rajiv Viswanathan, CEO of IBA. "CfAT is a successful Aboriginal corporation that has for many years been at the vanguard of technology innovation and application in remote Australia. We expect the RTE facility at CfAT's headquarters will create a platform from which CfAT can grow its business in Australia and, potentially, globally—as it looks to generate commercial returns for CfAT as well as flow-on benefits for the local economy via employment and supply chain opportunities. We are proud to support local businesses in realizing their ambitions for growth in the space sector."

John Williams, vice president of Real-Time Earth at Viasat added, "Partnering with CfAT and IBA in Australia will enable us to build a state-of-the-art RTE ground station that will offer multiple benefits both locally and globally, from bringing new jobs and opportunities to the region to advancing how remote sensing data is delivered around the world. We are revolutionizing data delivery for LEO satellites, bringing affordability and lower latency communications to earth observation and remote sensing applications. The Alice Springs community will be a big part in our development and execution of these advancements."

### **Alice Springs, Australia Location**

Viasat's RTE satellite ground station facility will be located at CfAT's Heath Road site in Alice Springs, Australia. It will consist of two Viasat full-motion antenna systems and associated infrastructure. The new ground station will form part of the Viasat RTE network and will complement other Viasat RTE sites in North America, South America and Europe.

### **About CfAT Ltd**

CfAT is an Aboriginal company, with 50% Aboriginal workforce, established in the 1980's, that operates across regional and remote Australia delivering infrastructure and technology solutions mostly to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, providing service and infrastructure platforms that allow people to maintain their relationship with country. The company's approach is driven by the view that the successful delivery of services and the technologies and infrastructure used to achieve them will be different to the way things are done in urban Australia. This has shaped our success and led to the development of highly innovative new technologies. [www.cfat.org.au](http://www.cfat.org.au)

### **About IBA**

IBA is a commercially focused Australian Government organisation. Economic independence for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is at the heart of what we do. Our programs assist Indigenous Australians to buy their own homes, be successful in business, and invest in commercial ventures that provide strong financial returns. <https://www.iba.gov.au/>

### **About Viasat**

Viasat is a global communications company that believes everyone and everything in the world can be connected. For more than 30 years, Viasat has helped shape how consumers, businesses, governments and militaries around the world communicate. Today, the Company is developing the ultimate global communications network to power high-quality, secure, affordable, fast connections to impact people's lives anywhere they are—on the ground, in the air or at sea. To learn more about Viasat, visit: [www.viasat.com](http://www.viasat.com), go to [Viasat's Corporate Blog](#), or follow the Company on social media at: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) or [YouTube](#).

### **Forward-Looking Statement**

This press release contains forward-looking statements that are subject to the safe harbors created under the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Forward-looking statements include statements about the expected completion date of the RTE facility, the facility's positive contribution to the local economy through contract opportunities, ongoing employment opportunities for Indigenous Australia, and growth of business; Viasat's ability to enable earth observation and remote sensing data; the ability to build, finance, service and maintain the system; and the location of the RTE facility. Readers are cautioned that actual results could differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause actual results to differ include: contractual problems, product defects, manufacturing issues or delays, regulatory issues, technologies not being developed according to anticipated schedules, or that do not perform according to expectations; our ability to successfully develop, introduce and sell new technologies, products and services; reduced demand for products and services as a result of continued constraints on capital spending by customers; changes in relationships with, or the financial condition of, key customers or suppliers; and increased competition and other factors affecting the communications market generally. In addition, please refer to the risk factors contained in Viasat's SEC filings available at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov), including Viasat's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date on which they are made. Viasat undertakes no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements for any reason.

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# MEDIA RELEASE

## AUSTRALIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS EARTH GROUND STATION

- Multimillion dollar earth ground station to be built in Alice Springs, Northern Territory
- First development of its kind on Aboriginal owned land in Australia
- Facility expected to bring new jobs and economic opportunities to remote Australia
- Indigenous Australians to be leading participants in global satellite and space industry

Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) will fund Australia's first earth ground station built and owned by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander company.

Global communications company Viasat Inc. has partnered with Aboriginal not-for-profit science and technology company Centre for Appropriate Technology Ltd (CfAT) to launch a Real-Time Earth (RTE) facility in Alice Springs. CfAT will build and own the facility through its wholly owned commercial subsidiary CfAT Satellite Enterprises Pty Ltd.

The multimillion dollar investment in Alice Springs enables Central Australia to be a key player in the global satellite and space industry and Indigenous Australians to be leading participants in the sector. The investment is also strongly aligned with the priorities for the Australian Space Agency.

The facility will be used to track the next generation of low earth orbiting satellites for earth observation used for scientific research, environmental monitoring, and commercial applications.

CfAT Chairperson Peter Renehan said, 'This facility brings together our mission of engagement and people, innovation and excellence – and puts Aboriginal people at the forefront of Australia's growing space sector.'

'This state-of-the-art development will provide a positive contribution to the local economy through employment opportunities for local businesses during each phase of construction as well as ongoing jobs for local Aboriginal people once operational.'

'CfAT exists to provide people in regional and remote Australia with options for maintaining their relationship with country. We do this by providing technologically innovative solutions to infrastructure challenges with digital connectivity as a core focus of the companies work.'

According to a [KPMG report](#), 'Unlocking the potential of the "Indigenous Estate"', across the Australian landmass, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people own or have controlling interests in about 40 per cent of the Australian land mass under various forms of title and legislation.

IBA Chairperson Eddie Fry emphasised the importance of this opportunity for both the Australian space industry and the Indigenous community.

'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people own or control significant areas of land in remote areas where there is limited economic potential. This first of its kind development on Aboriginal land gives the community both economic and social returns.'

‘The global space industry is growing rapidly, and this is creating demand for access to land for satellite communications infrastructure, particularly in Australia where there are large areas of strategically located land with clear skies and low radio interference.

‘Not only will this facility generate commercial returns and jobs for Indigenous Australians, it will create wider commercial opportunities for the local economy. CfAT will invest in training Aboriginal people in maintaining the facility and build its capacity for bringing innovative programs to Aboriginal people in the region.

‘The location in Alice Springs is an optimal environment for this type of technology due to the large number of days that are cloud-free, limited radio interference, and access to fibre network on the grounds. This is just the beginning and we can see CfAT expanding operations and including more facilities like this one in the future.

‘Earth observation is a fast-growing market globally. We see a significant growth rate over the next ten years. IBA believes the space sector will continue to open up new opportunities for commercial participation by Indigenous people in Australia, where many groups are well-placed to leverage their land assets.’

Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt AM said developments such as this showcased how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people could continue leading roles in our nation’s innovation, as they have done for more than 60,000 years.

‘Indigenous Australians hold a powerful economic force through their connections with land, culture and community,’ Minister Wyatt said.

‘This exciting project is a prime example of the power of country to help deliver commercial returns through technology, employment and career opportunities.’

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#### **About IBA**

IBA is a commercially focused organisation. Economic independence for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is at the heart of what we do. Our programs assist Indigenous Australians to buy their own homes, be successful in business, and invest in commercial ventures that provide strong financial returns. IBA is established under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (ATSI Act) and is a corporate Commonwealth entity for the purposes of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act). IBA resides in the portfolio of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and is accountable to the Australian Parliament through the Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

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