

Measat gets go-ahead for June 19 satellite launch

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MEASAT Global Bhd's Measat-3a satellite has been given the go-ahead for launch on June 19, said a company spokeswoman.

The satellite was due to be launched on August 21 last year but was grounded after it was damaged during crane operations at the launch complex.

"We've been given a launch win-

dow next week. We are supposed to launch the satellite on June 19," she told reporters after the company's annual general meeting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

A launch window is a particular period of time in which it will be easier to place the satellite in the orbit necessary to perform its intended function.

The Measat-3a commercial satellite is now at its launch site at Baikonur, Kazakhstan, and is in final preparations for liftoff.

Measat-3a was developed and built by US-based Orbital Sciences under a contract awarded in 2005.

Designed to replace Measat-1 spacecraft, Measat-3a will be Measat's fourth communications satellite, providing C-band communications services throughout Asia, the Middle East and Africa, and Ku-band direct-to-home television broadcasting to Malaysia and Indonesia from a 91.5 degrees East orbital slot.