

Angola partners with Airbus to build advanced Earth observation satellite



Airbus Defence and Space will manufacture Angeo-1, Angola's first very high-performance Earth observation satellite, in France. This agreement marks a significant step towards strengthening the collaboration between the two countries, with Airbus acting as Angola's strategic partner for space.

According to Jean-Marc Nasr, head of space systems at Airbus, Angeo-1 will be

a latest-generation Earth observation satellite that will support social and economic development in Angola, including strategic activities like urban planning, and management of mineral resources. The satellite will further foster the development of the country in many different sectors, improving the life of Angolan citizens.

An Airbus S250 optical satellite, Angeo-1 builds upon Airbus's 30-plus years of experience in building highly reliable space systems. Once in operation, it will become the most advanced satellite in its class in the region. The satellite has the potential to position Angola as a leading African space power and provide sovereign access to satellite imagery that will make a significant contribution to the development of infrastructure and mapping of natural resources, maritime surveillance including fisheries, agriculture, and population.

Drought monitoring

The advanced satellite will also provide a better understanding of the origins and impacts of climate change on the economy, such as drought monitoring, rising sea levels and water resources. This will lead to better preparation in case of natural disasters with improved response rates and reduced loss of assets.

As part of the partnership, a comprehensive training programme will be provided for Angolan engineers to build domestic competencies through targeted knowledge transfer. Airbus has already supported Angola's operational applications using satellite imagery, such as land use mapping, agriculture monitoring and maritime surveillance, and the partnership is expected to strengthen further with the successful launch of Angeo-1.



Artist impression of an Airbus S250 optical satellite. (Image courtesy: Airbus)