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Economically Viable Flat Antennas Likely To Be The Holy Grail

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The senior affiliate consultant of Euroconsult, Blaine Curcio was skeptical when asked by the panelists at World Satellite Business Week conference if flat-panel antennas would be a holy grail in expanding the addressable market. There was a positive response from the service providers of satellite communication.

The CEO and President of Hughes Network systems, Pradman Kaul said that cheap flat-panel antennas were crucial for adopting broadband LEO or MEO satellites. He said that since there are no low-cost, electronic-array based flat-antennas, the largest application of the present could not be addressed. Kevin Steen, CEO of iDirect said that flat-panel antennas will become a game changer for the expansion of roles played by satellites in connection of devices in internet-of-things.

Pierre-Jean Beylier, CEO of Speed Cast said that cruise ships will be relying on larger antennas. He said that they required hundreds of megabits and well efficient antennas and this requirement could not be met with flat-panel antennas. Beylier said that the same was the case with energy customers who relied on satellite links for connecting offshore platforms. They would continue the use of large antennas. Beylier said that the problem with parabolic antennas was the complexity in installation, configuration and maintenance. Inexpensive flat-panel antennas will be beneficial for land mobility as well. Small and cost effective antennas which can be installed on mobile assets which can provide a large bandwidth at an efficient cost will be a better choice.

There are plenty of vehicles and other various assets which are operated by energy companies, non-governmental organizations and government agencies which can benefit by the use of flat panel antennas. Beylier said that software-defined satellites which have beam-shaping capabilities will allow the creation of small and high power-beams and will bring about a change in the way of providing connectivity to the users.

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