

# HISPASAT Satellite

## HISPASAT Satellite and Hughes HX System Help Colombian Government Close the Digital Divide with Internet Access



The majority of Colombia's population—more than 43 million people—lives in the country's Andean region, which encompasses some of the world's most mountainous terrain. While many Colombians live in cities with access to education and economic resources, a significant portion of the population lives in isolated villages on mountain peaks, valleys and canyons, tropical and wet forests, "cloud forests" covered by fog, and high-altitude grasslands.

Recognizing the Internet's value for increasing literacy and decreasing poverty rates, the Colombian government launched its Vive Digital program to create a "national digital ecosystem" to extend

Internet access throughout the Andean region. Vive Digital provides Internet access to Andean schools, businesses, and individuals through public kiosks.

Students and residents can use the kiosks for voice services and to access educational, local governance, industry, entrepreneurial resources and, of course, for general Internet access.

The kiosks have built-in computers for use by people without their own and act as Wi-Fi hotspots for those who do. The program also encompasses specialized kiosks for virtual conference centers, connection to government offices, and to serve people with disabilities.

Vive Digital consists of four major components; services, applications, users, and infrastructure. Since it was launched in 2010, Vive Digital has quadrupled the number of Internet connections from 2.2 million to 8.8 million through a combination of landline, cellular, and satellite connectivity options.

Satellite technology is critical to reaching remote areas that are beyond the reach of terrestrial networks. A partnership between TV Prens, NEC, satellite operator and bandwidth provider HISPASAT Colombia, and satellite technology provider Hughes Network Systems, enables Vive Digital to extend Internet service to even the most remote Andean communities.

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**Sergio Chaves**  
HISPASAT business director, South America



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**Luis Manuel Faviani**  
Director of Operations, TV Prensa

Vive Digital started building the satellite-kiosk network in January 2014 and expects to complete it before mid-2015. A Hughes HX satellite hub and 650 customer premise terminals connect kiosks at schools throughout the Colombian Andes through HISPASAT's satellite. The Colombian authorities chose Hughes HX because of its scalability, efficiency, and high bandwidth capabilities.

“Hughes was able to present a solution optimized for maximum efficiency on the HISPASAT satellite within the required delivery times to meet our construction schedule,” said Sergio Chaves, HISPASAT business director, South America. “Two features of the Hughes HX system were particularly significant; the dual-band capability to operate on both Ku-band and Ku extended bands, and the ability to switch transponders remotely without a site visit giving the system much more flexibility.” Chaves foresees implementing a model similar to the Vive Digital

**vive digital**  
Colombia

## About Hughes

Hughes Network Systems, LLC (Hughes) is the world's leading provider of satellite broadband for home and office, delivering innovative network technologies, managed services, and solutions for enterprises and governments globally. HughesNet® is the #1 high-speed satellite Internet service in the marketplace, with offerings to suit every budget. To date, Hughes has shipped more than 4 million systems to customers in over 100 countries, representing approximately 50 percent market share. Its products employ global standards approved by the TIA, ETSI and ITU organizations, including IPoS/DVB-S2, RSM-A, and GMR-1. Headquartered outside Washington, D.C., in Germantown, Maryland, USA, Hughes operates sales and support offices worldwide, and is a wholly owned subsidiary of EchoStar Corporation (NASDAQ: SATS), a premier global provider of satellite operations and digital TV solutions.



program in other countries and to industries such as oil and gas with facilities in remote areas.

The Ministry of Information Technology and Communication expects to have over 6,600 sites operating in remote parts of Colombia in 2014. Luis Manuel Faviani, TV Prensa's director of operations, predicts the Hughes HX network will have a transformational effect on Andean communities. TV Prensa operates Vive Digital for Colombia's Ministry of Information Technology and Communication.

“We have come to communities that have never had the Internet and the assimilation of the people has been impressive, especially with the young people,” he said. “They have begun to reach out beyond their communities through email, social networking, and YouTube to discover the great potential of this new tool.”

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