

HOTBIRD in India

■ Bangalore Satellite DXer Siddharth Gautam in front of his 3.65 m dish. With this equipment he receives some European signals, even though he is way out of their footprints.

- *extreme reception in southern India*
- *European satellites – crystal clear*
- *Ku band reception with large antenna*
- *almost no difference noticeable between offset and PFA LNB*

Satelliten DXer Siddharth Gautam in Bangalore How far does HOTBIRD's footprint actually go?

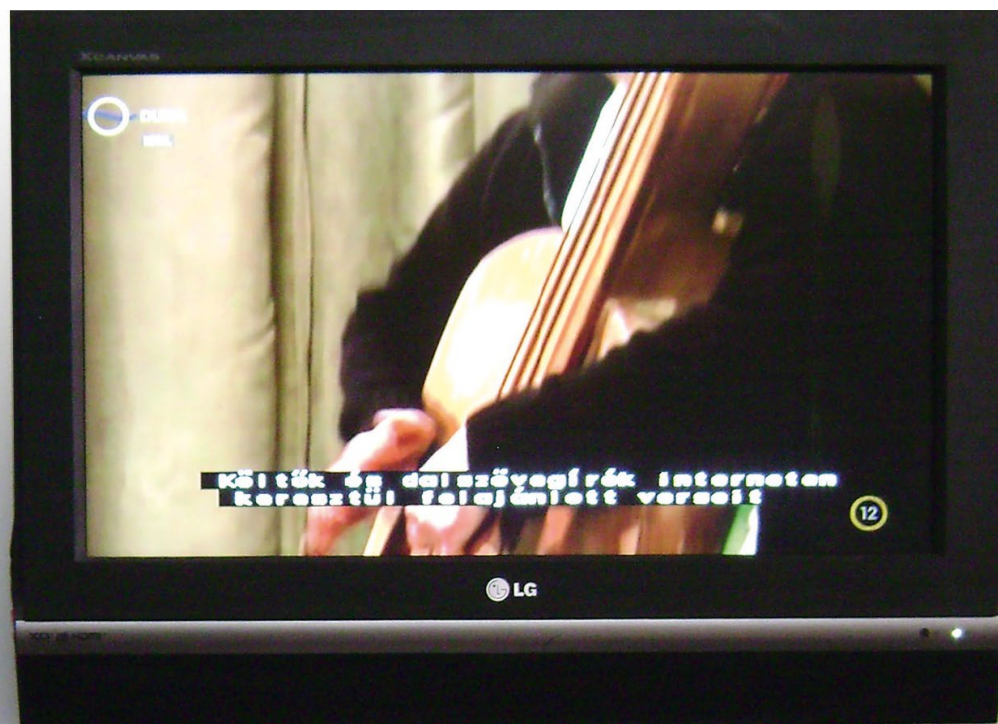


India and the European HOTBIRD position at 13°E are not exactly a perfect match. How's that? In a word, the HOTBIRD footprint does not extend as far as India. But then again, never say never: Satellite DXer Siddharth Gautam from Bangalore is a regular viewer of channels broadcast from the HOTBIRD orbital position. If you take a look at Bangalore on the map it's obvious that the capital of the province of Karnataka is definitely out of footprint, so how is Siddharth able to receive signals from HOTBIRD?

"I use a 12-foot (3.65 m) antenna," Siddharth reveals. "The entire installation set me back some 350 euros." But that's not the full story. If Siddharth moves the dish he can even receive EURO-BIRD 9 and EUTELSAT 36B. "What I found out is that it hardly makes a difference whether I use an offset LNB or a PFA LNB," although prime focus antennas (PFA) usually work best with a PFA LNB. Siddharth has even set up his own Internet forum by the name of 'Dish Tuning' which he uses to publish his extreme reception experience:

<http://dishtuning.com/Thread-Hotbird-In-South-India-13-East>

Apart from keeping his Internet forum up to date, Siddharth also runs an installation business. This provides an excellent way of showing custom-



■ Siddharth Gautam's reception station

Look at India!



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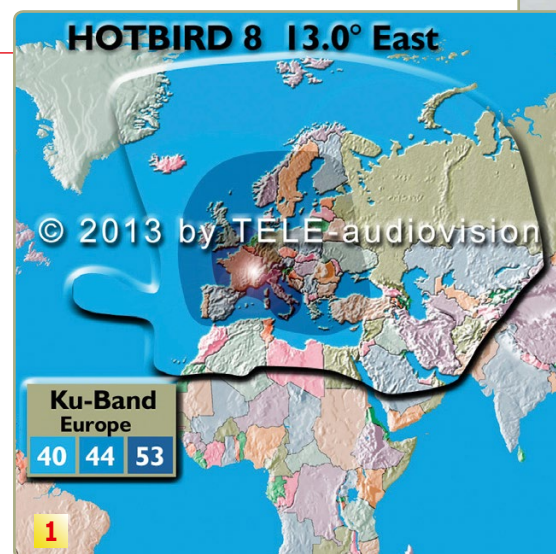
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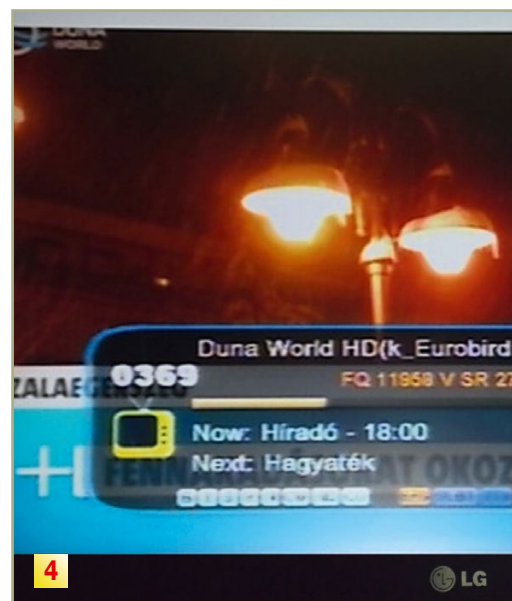
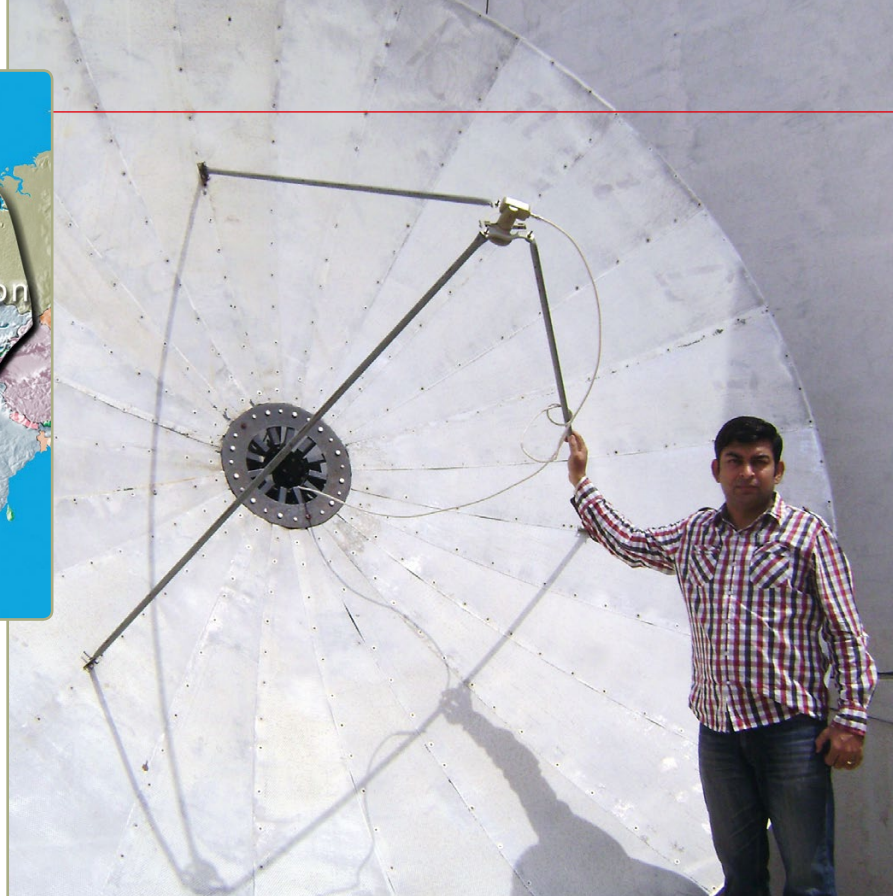


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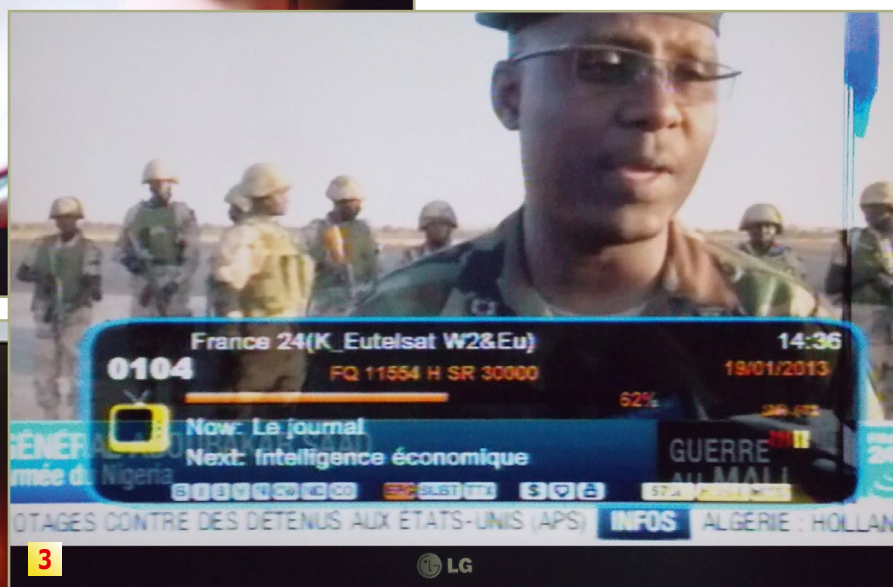
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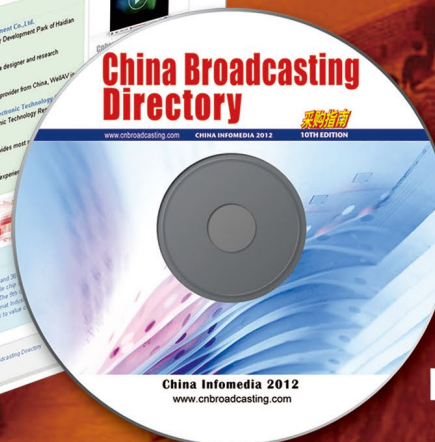
1. The HOTBIRD footprint does not reach India, but satellite DXer Siddharth Gautam is able to receive a number of European satellites nonetheless.
2. FunTV – sent from HOTBIRD, received in Bangalore
3. News channel France 24 – sent from EUTELSAT 36B, and also received in Bangalore
4. Hungarian HDTV channel Duna World HD from EUROIRD 9A in Bangalore



ers what can be achieved with extreme satellite reception. "Nobody around here even knows that European satellites can be received in southern India when you use a large enough antenna." Now that he's found out how it works Siddharth even contemplates producing those large antennas himself. "If demand is high enough, I'll definitely grab that



chance," he states with some optimism. Pre-orders can be made directly with Siddharth by contacting him using this e-mail address: siddharth_pnb@hotmail.com. Siddharth lends prove once again to the fact that the proof of the pudding is in the eating. If you try hard enough you may well achieve something that – in theory – seems to be out of the question.

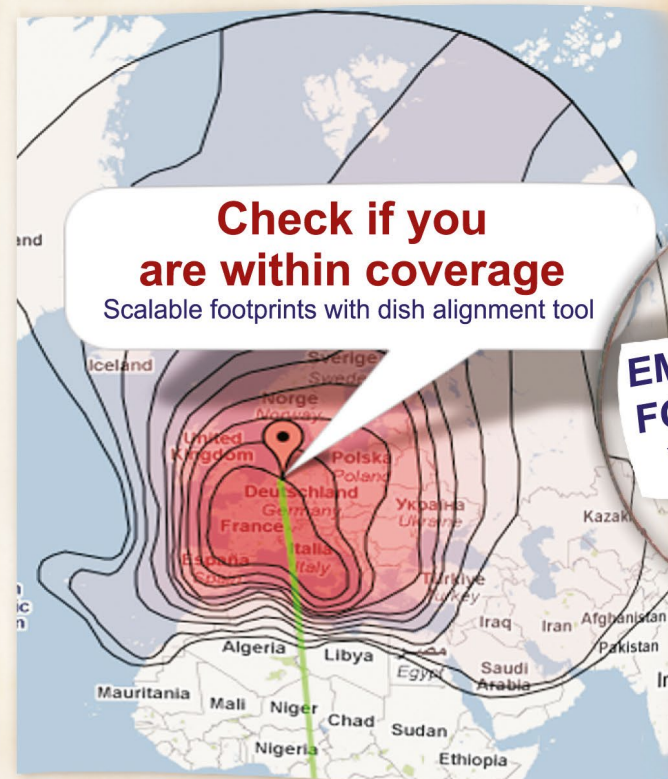


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