Kongsberg Spacetec’s customers rely on its systems to reliably gather data over long periods, so the underlying server platform must deliver consistent stability and performance. By choosing SUSE® Linux Enterprise Server, Kongsberg Spacetec rapidly deployed a rock-solid foundation for highly available solutions with a flexible environment for development. Thanks to SUSE solutions, Kongsberg Spacetec reduces the risk of its customers missing vital observations—helping it lead the way in satellite remote sensing.

Overview
Kongsberg Spacetec is the world leading provider of turnkey satellite ground stations for Earth observation satellites and processing software for remote sensing applications. A subsidiary of the international technology corporation KONGSBERG Group, the company was recently involved in the development of the Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS), the USA’s next-generation weather and climate satellite system.

Challenge
To retain its position on the leading edge of satellite remote sensing, Kongsberg Spacetec must develop systems that can reliably gather increasingly large amounts of data over long periods of time. Frustrated by the cost, vendor lock-in and lack of flexibility of UNIX-based operating systems, the company adopted Linux as the foundation for its solutions, but soon found that non-enterprise distributions fell short of its exacting standards.

“We encountered issues with bugs and instabilities in new releases on non-enterprise Linux distributions,” says Dr. Frank Øynes, Program Director at Kongsberg Spacetec. “Customers rely on our solutions to work 24/7 for years at a time, and any problems with the underlying technology could result in them missing a vital observation. Internally, we wanted to give our developers more flexible tools to work with.”

Reluctant to pass up the advantages of working with open-source Linux solutions, Kongsberg Spacetec began looking for an enterprise-class alternative.

Solution
Kongsberg Spacetec chose SUSE Linux Enterprise Server as the foundation for its satellite remote sensing systems.

“Following a period of intensive testing, we selected SUSE Linux Enterprise Server over competing offerings because it was the optimal match for our hardware and in-house expertise,” says Dr. Frank Øynes. “We also felt that SUSE Linux Enterprise had the best reputation, which would be an additional selling-point to our customers. Ultimately, we liked SUSE better than the nearest competitor.”

“SUSE Linux Enterprise Server enables us to deliver ultra-reliable, high-performance systems that exceed our customers’ expectations.”

DR. FRANK J. ØYNES
Program Director
Kongsberg Spacetec

Kongsberg Spacetec at a Glance:
Kongsberg Spacetec is the world-leading provider of turnkey satellite ground stations for Earth observation satellites and processing software for remote sensing applications.

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<th>Industry and Location</th>
<th>Research and Development, Tromsø, Norway</th>
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<td>Products and Services</td>
<td>SUSE Linux Enterprise Server&lt;br&gt;SUSE Linux Enterprise Software Development Kit</td>
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<td>Results</td>
<td>⊗ Helps the company meet customer demand for exceptional stability and performance&lt;br&gt; ⊗ Boosts efficiency by reducing support costs and effort&lt;br&gt; ⊗ Reduces development time for new systems, shortening time to market</td>
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“By providing a rock-solid foundation for our solutions, SUSE Linux Enterprise Server help us play our part in driving tomorrow’s satellite systems.”

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Program Director
Kongsberg Spacetec

Next, Kongsberg Spacetec used YaST®, the user-friendly configuration and administration tool integrated with SUSE Linux Enterprise, to achieve a rapid implementation.

Dr. Frank Øynes says, “Using YaST, we were able to install and configure SUSE Linux Enterprise very quickly, and start using the solution with little effort.”

By deploying the SUSE Linux Enterprise Software Development Kit (SDK), Kongsberg Spacetec gained a comprehensive set of tools to support and accelerate development of new solutions.

“Having a standard, highly flexible operating system in place helps our developers to work more effectively,” says Frank Øynes. “Although they are free to utilize other operating systems for development if they prefer, most choose SUSE Linux Enterprise Server.”

Results
Since Kongsberg Spacetec embraced SUSE Linux Enterprise Server as its standard operating system for development, testing and solution delivery, the company and its clients have experienced consistently high performance and stability.

“SUSE Linux Enterprise Server enables us to deliver ultra-reliable, high-performance systems that exceed our customers’ expectations,” says Dr. Frank Øynes. “Ten years into our use of SUSE Linux Enterprise and we continue to be impressed by the solution. With few major upgrades required, it enables us to provide systems that customers can use for years at a time with no interruption.”

In moving to SUSE Linux Enterprise Server, Kongsberg Spacetec has boosted efficiency.

Dr. Frank Øynes says, “With SUSE Linux Enterprise, we can produce and distribute updates at greater speed and ease than we were able to achieve with UNIX-based systems. Better still, it reduces our support costs and offers us access to a vast ecosystem of open-source tools and libraries. And if we ever have a problem, we can call on the superb support offered by SUSE.”

By facilitating development, the solution is helping Kongsberg Spacetec build a successful future.

“Working with SUSE Linux Enterprise Server, we have significantly reduced development and testing times, helping us bring our innovative systems to market sooner,” says Dr. Frank Øynes. “By providing a rock-solid foundation for our solutions, SUSE Linux Enterprise Server helps us play our part in driving tomorrow’s satellite systems.”