



Director's Report

October 4, 2006

The Satellite Industry Association (SIA) Director's Report is a weekly executive capsule covering current satellite industry news and events.

Your comments are appreciated. Please contact Christina Langlois at (202) 349-3632.

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Recent News

The **Satellite Industry Association** (SIA) applauded the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for establishing the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau. The organization looks forward to working with the new Bureau on developing best practices, preparedness plans, and promoting network reliability and redundancy. The FCC continues to demonstrate its commitment to ensuring the operability of the nation's communications networks. Creating a new bureau with a public safety, homeland security and emergency preparedness mandate will give the FCC the centralized expertise and decision-making needed to keep communications networks operational during emergencies and to restore them quickly once they are down. SIA's member companies are pleased that an FCC Bureau will now be solely devoted to developing and implementing communications policies that enhance public safety and serving as an informational clearinghouse for public safety and emergency response issues as they relate to FCC initiatives.

Microsoft Corporation India Pvt Ltd and **Hughes** announced their commitment to work together on rolling out 5,000 broadband-enabled ICT (Information & Communications Technology) kiosks across the country. The ICT kiosks will be deployed across 200 small towns and rural regions pan India and will be operated on a franchisee-based model offering budding

entrepreneurs across the rural landscape the use of technology for e-commerce, education, and e-governance. [Link for Additional Information](#)

Federal District Court Judge William H. Pauley III (S.D.N.Y.) issued an order dismissing Darlene Investments, LLC's fraud action against **DIRECTV** and holding Darlene liable to DIRECTV for Darlene's breach of contract. The dispute related to a series of transactions between DIRECTV and Darlene in connection with DIRECTV Latin America's emergence from bankruptcy in February 2004. In its suit, Darlene, which is owned by The Cisneros Group of Companies and Bessemer Holdings, sought over \$1 billion in damages against DIRECTV. [Link for Additional Information](#)

The HOT BIRD™ 8 broadcast satellite of **Eutelsat Communications** went into commercial service at 13 degrees East. The satellite was brought into operation. With a launch mass of 4.9 tonnes HOT BIRD™ 8 is the largest and most powerful broadcast satellite serving Europe. The satellite has 64 Ku-band transponders which span the entire range of frequencies used at Eutelsat's HOT BIRD™ neighbourhood for broadcasting more than 950 television channels and 550 radio stations to over 113 million homes. The size and configuration of HOT BIRD™ 8 enables Eutelsat to increase in-orbit redundancy at its premium video neighbourhood and releases HOT BIRD™ 3 for its new mission at 10 degrees East. Built

by EADS Astrium and launched on 5 August from the Baikonour Cosmodrome, HOT BIRD™ 8's scheduled in-orbit life is expected to exceed 15 years. [Link for Additional Information](#)

Inmarsat was recognized at the prestigious CommsMEA 2006 telecom awards ceremony in Dubai for providing the best universal service offering in the Middle East and Africa. An independent panel of judges selected Inmarsat for the 'Best Universal Service Offering' award at a ceremony on 11 September in Dubai. The annual awards are organized by *CommsMEA*, the leading Middle Eastern telecoms magazine. [Link for Additional Information](#)

The **Federal Communications Commission** said Deputy Media Bureau chief Deborah Klein will serve as special counsel for the new Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau's public communications outreach and operations division. The FCC had announced the new bureau and named Enforcement Bureau's Kenneth Moran as acting chief. *Story courtesy of SkyREPORTS.*

WildBlue Communication's business arm, WildBlue Enterprise Solutions, entered into a partnership with EchoSat Communications Group to supply the internet-via-satellite company's high speed network with EchoSat's Secure Payments Gateway SM (SPG). The SPG solution, according to the companies, provides merchants, retailers and other small businesses with a managed solution for their point of sale (POS), credit card and ATM machines, and other dial-up or serial devices. *Story courtesy of SkyREPORTS.*

The **APSCC 2006 Satellite Conference and Exhibition** successfully gathered over 500 professionals from the satellite and

space-related industries. Also Dr. Nongluck Phinaintisart was elected as the new APSCC President for a two-year term starting in January 2007. She succeeds Dr. Eui K. Koh, President of ASA Technologies, who has served as APSCC President for the past four years. From 1999 to 2002, Dr. Phinaintisart was a member of the APSCC Board of Directors. Dr. Phinaintisart is currently President of Shin Satellite Public Co. Ltd., a satellite operator in Asia with five satellites, Thaicom 1A, Thaicom 2, Thaicom 3, Thaicom 4 (IPSTAR), and Thaicom 5, in operation. [Link for Additional Information](#)

As telcos bring to market their video products, a new report said the effect is expected to be similar to that of the last ten years: the new platform will drive deeper multichannel penetration. The new study from **Kagan Research** goes on to say that the satellite industry should expect solid subscriber growth in the near term, waning a few years out as local-into-local and HD local penetration matures. According to Kagan's The State of DBS report, the primary effect of telco TV will be to further diminish cable's share to 61 percent while increasing multichannel homes by nearly 20 million. And at the end of the 10-year horizon, the research firm projects satellite will notch more than six million net new subs to total more than 33.5 million by 2015. *Story courtesy of SkyREPORTS.*

A fugitive who had eluded police for more than five months - leaving a trail of destruction in his wake and allegedly shooting three officers - was apprehended recently thanks to some crafty police work and **WildBlue Communication's** internet service. Police in New York and neighboring states used every tool available to them in the hunt for the man who is now in custody, local reports said. The authorities

used a WildBlue-enabled mobile vehicle to set up a command post deep in the Chautauqua County woods, and using the link in multiple locations was able to track the fugitive's sightings and activities. Local officials said the county's forest areas are extremely isolated and knew that WildBlue's internet-via-satellite would be a great solution after having a similar system installed on a hazardous materials vehicle. *Story courtesy of SkyREPORTS.*

Intelsat announced the promotion of Linda J. Kokal to Senior Vice President and Treasurer. Ms. Kokal's areas of responsibility and oversight include treasury, risk management, and financial planning and analysis. She joined Intelsat's finance department in April 2006 as Vice President and Treasurer and played an integral role in the capital structuring related to the merger with PanAmSat. [Link for Additional Information](#)

Upcoming Meetings and Events

10-12 October 2006 - United States Space Foundation Symposium, "Strategic Space 2006", Omaha, Nebraska www.spacefoundation.org

12 October 2006 – SSPI Technology Summit for teens and parents in DC area, McKinley Technology High School, 151 T Street, NE, Washington DC. *For more information contact:* rick.kelsey@k12.dc.us at McKinley High School or ltondro@erols.com at SSPI Mid-Atlantic Chapter.

17 October 2006 – National Space Club Annual Fall reception at Goddard Space Flight Center, Call 202-973-8661, opt 2 with questions or contact rorynsc@starpower.net.

19 October 2006 – WSBR Executive Lunch, "Space and Satellites: State of the Investment Climate," The University Club, 1135 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC www.wsbr.org

13-15 November 2006 – Global MilSatCom, Millennium Conference Centre, London <http://www.smi-online.co.uk/goto/milsatcom.asp?emref=R25ER91632695>

28 November 2006 - ISCe Satellite Investment Symposium NYC '06, New York City <http://www.isis-nyc.com/>

28 November 2006 - SSPI Future Leaders Dinner, New York City www.satfuture.com.

29-30 November 2006 – SATCON 2006, New York City www.satconexpo.com

30 November – 1 December 2006 - California Space Authority, "Transforming Space" Conference, www.californiaspaceauthority.org

5-7 December 2006 – DoD SATCOM Users Workshop, Tyson's Corner Marriott, McLean, VA. For more information contact SIA at info@sia.org.