



Director's Report

April 25, 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 Cindy Spiers at (202) 349-3632.

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Recent News

Intelsat introduced AmpiageSM, a new satellite-based, open-architecture, content delivery and management service ideally suited for North American multiple system operators (MSOs) seeking to cost-effectively upgrade to MPEG-4 and telecommunications operators (telcos) looking to enter the IPTV market. Modeled on a "super head-end" for content distribution Ampiage will upgrade and convert video stream for MSOs from MPEG-2 to MPEG-4 using state-of-the-art equipment. The move to MPEG-4 is being driven by the desire for both higher transmission quality and efficient utilization of bandwidth.

Hughes Network Systems, LLC announced that it has been selected to supply fixed wireless systems for the launch of **Nextlink's** new broadband wireless services. Nextlink is utilizing the Hughes LMDS AIReach[®] AB9400 system in both point-to-point and point-to-multipoint modes, offering high-speed Internet access and Ethernet services to mobile and terrestrial operators, enterprises and government customers. Nextlink is the first operator in the US to provide both cellular wireless backhaul and fixed wireless services utilizing the advanced AB9400 system. Wireless backhaul networks are already widely deployed in Europe and other markets abroad, and are proven to be reliable and

economical alternatives to conventional wireline technologies.

Lockheed Martin announced that it has successfully completed a critical structural test of the Advanced Extremely High Frequency (EHF) spacecraft. The Advanced EHF system will provide global, highly secure, protected, survivable communications for all warfighters serving under the U.S. Department of Defense. Advanced EHF satellites will provide greater total capacity and offer channel data rates higher than that of Milstar communications satellites. The higher data rates permit transmission of tactical military communications such as real-time video, battlefield maps and targeting data. With the successful completion of modal testing, the spacecraft will be shipped to **ATK** for refurbishment and final painting prior to shipment to Lockheed Martin's Mississippi Space & Technology Center for integration with its propulsion subsystem. Development of the first Advanced EHF satellite is also progressing on schedule and is planned for launch in April 2008.

Lockheed Martin announced that Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) and IBM Business Consulting Services have joined the GOES-R Lockheed Martin Team in competition for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Geostationary

Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES-R) program.

The ASTRA-1KR telecommunications satellite, designed and built by **Lockheed Martin** for **SES ASTRA**, was launched successfully from Cape Canaveral, Fla., aboard an Atlas V launch vehicle provided by **International Launch Services** (ILS). ASTRA-1KR is the 29th of Lockheed Martin's A2100 series of spacecraft delivered to satellite operators around the world and the first of two A2100 spacecraft to be delivered to SES ASTRA this year. ASTRA-1KR is a high-power Ku-band satellite that features 32 transponders that will provide distribution of direct-to-home broadcast services across Europe.

Two **Alliant Techsystems** (ATK) Orion motors performed flawlessly in the recent successful flight of a Minotaur launch vehicle from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. The launch placed a constellation of six microsattellites into orbit. The satellites will collect data for weather prediction, and ionosphere, climate and gravity research. This data will be available to the international scientific community in near real-time.

PanAmSat and On Call Communications announced the development of a new satellite-based communications solution to enable the coverage of breaking news and live events by local and independent news stations. By using PanAmSat's QuickSPOT on-demand satellite technology and On Call's OnSPOT auto-deploying broadband satellite communications systems, broadcasters can now report on breaking news events as they happen and then transmit the coverage to viewers in real time with

unrivaled simplicity, mobility and cost-efficiency.

SES AMERICOM, and Hiwire™, a subsidiary of Aloha Partners, announced they will deliver a Digital Video Broadcast-Handheld (DVB-H) mobile TV and entertainment trial to consumers in Las Vegas this fall. Hiwire's mobile TV programming will originate from SES AMERICOM's IP-PRIME™ IPTV Broadcast Center in New Jersey, where content will be aggregated, processed, and prepared in MPEG-4 format for distribution. The reformatted DVB-H content will then be delivered over the SES AMERICOM satellite-based distribution network to Hiwire's broadcast distribution towers, where the local channel lineup will be tailored and distributed over Hiwire's terrestrial 700 MHz spectrum

Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) has signed a major multi-year, multi-transponder agreement with **SES Americom** tapping its satellites and expertise for PBS' Next Generation Interconnection System (NGIS). SES Americom's AMC-21 satellite, an **Alcatel Alenia Space** spacecraft scheduled to initiate service at 125 degrees west longitude in mid-2008, will provide primary 50-state distribution of PBS programming.

SAT Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Integral Systems, Inc.** announced that it has delivered an additional MonicsNet Satellite Carrier Monitoring site to SES Astra, thereby extending their existing MonicsNet network. MonicsNet is a global monitoring system that provides automatic monitoring of Astra's carriers using SAT's

DSP technology; it does this in a fraction of the time of a classic spectrum analyzer.

Northrop Grumman Corp. has entered into a strategic alliance agreement with **Digital Fountain Inc.** to offer advanced communications technology to a wide range of U.S. and allied government customers. Northrop said its systems integration capabilities can enable a variety of users to exchange real-time information on tactical, ad-hoc networks. The company specializes in offering new networking concepts to address its customers' technology gaps. These capabilities will be enhanced by Digital Fountain's expertise in fundamental technology and software components that improve the quality and performance of communications in the most challenging network conditions.

XTAR, LLC, a joint venture between **Loral Space & Communications** and **HISDESAT**, announced that the second component of its X-band satellite network, XTAR-LANT, has completed in-orbit testing and has entered full commercial service. XTAR-LANT joins the XTAR-EUR satellite that entered service in April 2005.

Globalstar, Inc. has closed a \$400 million debt and equity financing to fund the design and deployment of the company's second-generation satellite constellation, upgrade its ground segment, and launch eight spare satellites for its current constellation in early 2007.

Boeing announced the handover of the Spaceway F2 satellite to **DIRECTV, Inc.**, the second of four Boeing satellites that will provide DIRECTV with the capacity to broadcast hundreds of local and national high definition (HD) channels. Spaceway

F2 joins its sister satellite, Spaceway F1, as part of a capacity expansion that will enable DIRECTV to deliver more than 1,500 local HD channels and more than 150 national HD channels by the end of 2007.

The International Bureau at the **Federal Communications Commission** approved a request made by **EchoStar** to transfer control of its EchoStar 4 spacecraft to Mexican entity **QuetzSat**, which will operate the satellite for the DBS company at the 77-degree orbital location. QuetzSat holds a concession from Mexico to operate a satellite at the 77-degree orbital location, and through its arrangement with EchoStar would control a satellite at the slot pursuant to that license. QuetzSat is an affiliate of SES Global Latin America. The FCC bureau also approved a blanket authorization of up to 1 million satellite TV dishes that will allow EchoStar to provide DBS service in the U.S. using EchoStar 4 at 77 degrees. EchoStar and SES Global have an agreement in place covering the 77-degree orbital location. In addition to EchoStar moving its satellite to the slot, there are plans to launch and place a new satellite, called QuetzSat 1, at 77 degrees. *Story courtesy of SkyREPORT*

Loral Skynet do Brasil, a subsidiary of Loral Space & Communications, announced that it has reached an agreement with Vicom, a subsidiary of Comsat International, McLean, Va., to lease Ku-band capacity on Skynet's Estrela do Sul 1 (Telstar 14) satellite for a unique, IP-based VSAT (very small aperture terminal) network connecting more than 6,000 lottery and banking outlets across Brazil.



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Iridium Satellite LLC announced that Carmen Lloyd, CEO, is retiring from the company. The Board of Iridium Holdings LLC, the holding company for Iridium Satellite LLC, has named Dan A. Colussy as interim CEO. Mr. Colussy will serve as interim CEO until Lloyd's successor is

appointed. Colussy is a founding investor and former CEO of Iridium Satellite LLC, as well as Chairman of Iridium Holdings LLC.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

24-27 April 2006 – California Space Authority, 4th Responsive Space Conference, Los Angeles, California, www.californiaspaceauthority.org

3 May 2006 - SIA Regulatory Working Group (RWG) Meeting, 2 p.m.

11-15 June 2006 - ISCe Conference, San Diego, CA www.isce.com

26-28 September 2006 – APSCC 2006 Satellite Conference and Exhibition, “Satellites – Growing with Asia”, Hotel Lotte World, Seoul, Korea; info@apsc.or.kr; <http://www.apsc.or.kr/event/apsc2006.asp>

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

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