



Director's Report

October 25, 2006

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

Please see www.sia.org for archive of Director's reports. Please contact Christina Langlois at (clanglois@sia.org) or (202) 349-3632 with your comments or requests for pdf format of report.

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Recent News

The **Satellite Industry Association** (SIA) announced **Spacenet Inc.**, a leading provider of satellite and hybrid terrestrial broadband services based in McLean, Virginia, has joined as an Associate member. As a member of the SIA, Spacenet will have an opportunity to participate in a broad spectrum of working groups covering regulatory, trade, homeland security, government services, market access, export controls, and legislative issues. Participation in these working groups provides members with the ability to craft industry-wide positions on issues that are important to the economic and strategic success of satellite companies in the marketplace.

The **Satellite Industry Association** (SIA) announced the addition of a new Executive member, **Arrowhead Global Solutions Inc.**, a leading provider of satellite and terrestrial telecommunications networks and integrated information technology solutions to the government and corporate sectors. Arrowhead was founded in 1991 and has seen steady growth and expansion since that time in its core business areas, satellite and fiber design, and implementation, operations and maintenance and bandwidth capacity. As an Executive Member of the SIA, Arrowhead has an opportunity to participate in a broad spectrum of working groups covering regulatory, trade, homeland security, government services, market access, export controls, and legislative issues and events.

In comments filed to the **Federal Communications Commission**, the Satellite Industry Association (SIA) is looking for reforms to the Universal Service Fund (USF) high-cost mechanism clearing the way for satellite data and voice providers to receive support. The FCC is considering whether to reform the fund to allow for "reverse auctions" whereby the lowest bidder would receive authorization to provide support. These reverse auctions, SIA said, could be one of many possible reforms the government agency should employ as part of a new initiative to make satellite services eligible for support. *Story courtesy of SkyREPORT.*

Boeing and the U.S. Air Force MILSATCOM Systems Wing have signed a \$1.067 billion contract for up to three more Wideband Gapfiller Satellites (WGS), if all options are exercised. The Block II satellites will be similar to the three Block I satellites already in production. Under Block II, Boeing will add a radio frequency bypass capability designed to support airborne intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platforms requiring ultra-high bandwidth and data rates demanded by unmanned aerial vehicles. The Air Force authorized Boeing to begin non-recurring engineering and advanced procurement of parts for the fourth WGS satellite. Boeing anticipates Air Force authorization to proceed with full production of WGS F4 and to begin long-lead work for F5 by the end of 2006. These revolutionary, 13-kilowatt WGS satellites are based on Boeing's 702 models and are designed to provide improved communications support for America's warfighters. Boeing is preparing the first WGS satellite for launch in 2007. The Block II contract calls for the launch of F4 by the first quarter of 2011 and subsequent launches

every year thereafter. WGS will augment and eventually replace the DSCS currently on station. Boeing has leveraged a wealth of experience and capability for WGS, including extensive investments in the 702 satellite bus, digital signal processors and phased array antennas. These capabilities enable the tremendous capacity and operational flexibility the U.S. military requires. [Link to Additional Information](#)

Hughes Network Systems, LLC (HUGHES) announced that it has completed the rollout of HughesNet™ Managed Network Services at 1,175 CSK Auto retail locations. HughesNet Managed Network Services employs a combination of satellite and DSL broadband technologies as dictated by the needs of the customer, all managed through a common, fully-integrated service and support infrastructure. CSK Auto is utilizing its HughesNet Managed Network Services as the backbone between its stores and corporate headquarters. [Link to Additional Information](#)

Eclipse Aviation, manufacturer of a very light jet (VLJ), and **Iridium Satellite** announce that the Iridium mobile satellite communications system will be a standard offering on the Eclipse 500. Eclipse Aviation is an Iridium value-added manufacturer and reseller (VAM/VAR) for aeronautical satellite communication systems and service. [Link to Additional Information](#)

Iridium Satellite is providing critical satellite data communications for a rapidly expanding atmospheric data reporting program that uses commercial aircraft to gather and transmit meteorological data automatically to AirDat's data center. AirDat LLC, an Iridium value-added reseller, has developed the patented Tropospheric Airborne Meteorological Data Reporting (TAMDAR) system, which uses weather sensors installed on commercial aircraft connected to an onboard Iridium satellite transceiver. The TAMDAR sensors measure humidity, wind, pressure, temperature, icing and turbulence conditions during all phases of flight. A built-in GPS receiver provides position, time and altitude. [Link to Additional Information](#)

Iridium Satellite is expanding its value-added partner program to include three new value-added manufacturers (VAMs): Fastwave Communications (Perth, Australia), Uplogix (Austin, Texas) and Dilupe (Erembodegem, Belgium). Iridium has also appointed Beam Communications Pty Ltd. of Victoria, Australia a new value-added reseller (VAR). [Link to Additional Information](#)

The Extreme Ultraviolet Imager (EUVI) instrument – designed and built at the Solar and Astrophysics Laboratory of the **Lockheed Martin** Advanced Technology Center (ATC) in Palo Alto – will soon begin returning stereo images of the Sun's corona as part of NASA's Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory (STEREO). STEREO will utilize two nearly identical spacecraft on different trajectories to study the most energetic events on the surface and in the lower atmosphere of the Sun, and their travel through interplanetary space. Data from spacecraft instruments will allow scientists to construct the first ever three-dimensional views of the Sun, providing a new perspective on Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs). [Link to Additional Information](#)

The U.S. Air Force has named the Defense Satellite Communications System (DSCS) Life Extension Team as a winner of the 2006 Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award. The prestigious award, sponsored by the Chief of Staff of the Air Force and administered by the Air Force Manpower Agency (AFMA), recognizes outstanding team performance and shares best

practices within the Air Force. The DSCS Team received this award for developing innovative methods for estimating and maximizing the fuel on board the DSCS satellite constellation.

Lockheed Martin is the prime contractor for the Air Force DSCS constellation, which provides uninterrupted secure voice and high-data rate communications to Department of Defense users; essential tools in monitoring events and deploying and sustaining forces anywhere in the world. The DSCS III satellites on-orbit have a design life of 10-years. However, the team's ability to better estimate the on-board fuel, combined with new techniques for maximizing fuel usage, allows the DSCS satellites to exceed their design life by several years. [Link to Additional Information](#)

Loral Space & Communications Inc. announced that it has entered into an agreement under which affiliates of MHR Fund Management LLC, Loral's largest shareholder, will purchase from Loral \$300 million of convertible perpetual preferred stock. Loral plans to use the proceeds from this financing, together with its existing resources, to pursue both internal and external growth opportunities in the satellite communications industry, including strategic transactions or alliances. [Link to Additional Information](#)

Mobile Satellite Ventures ("MSV") announced two new patents have been awarded to the Reston, Virginia company by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The patents bring to fifteen the number of patents directed to Ancillary Terrestrial Component ("ATC") technology, the linchpin of MSV's next generation integrated satellite-terrestrial wireless broadband network. MSV has over eighty issued U.S. patents in all, along with counterpart cases issued worldwide. [Link to Additional Information](#)

SES AMERICOM and Harmonic Inc. announced the integration of Harmonic's latest video encryption technology with SES AMERICOM's IP-PRIME™ IPTV distribution service. The new Harmonic ProStream™ 1000 with ProCipher™ AES scrambling and bulk descrambling technology is a key component of IP-PRIME, which enables large and small telephone company operators and broadband service providers across the U.S. to securely, easily and cost-effectively deliver a full lineup of top quality programming to consumers. [Link to Additional Information](#)

The Court of Appeal (Oberlandesgericht) of Düsseldorf has confirmed the acquisition of the TV playout centre ASTRA Platform Services (APS) by **SES ASTRA**. The Court has announced today that a complaint of the satellite operator Eutelsat against the Cartel Office has been rejected. SES ASTRA had agreed with the Pay-TV operator Premiere in June 2004 to acquire 100 percent of APS. The Cartel Office had approved the acquisition in December 2004. Eutelsat had filed a complaint against this in early 2005. APS offers broadcasting and encryption services as well as digital broadcasting services for TV channels. [Link to Additional Information](#)

DIRECTV continues to enhance its international programming platform, WorldDirect(TM), with the addition of a new Arabic-language programming package, ArabicDirect(TM). The ArabicDirect package combines five of the leading Arabic-language channels from the Middle East - Rotana Cinema, Rotana Zaman, Rotana Moossika, Orbit Al-Yawm and The Orbit Arabic Series Channel (Seen). [Link to Additional Information](#)

Integral Systems, Inc. announced it has been selected by Lockheed Martin Commercial Space Systems (LMCSS) to provide primary and backup satellite control systems for the VINASAT-1 satellite. The satellite is currently being constructed by LMCSS for the Vietnam Posts and Telecommunications Group (VNPT). The satellite control systems will incorporate several elements of Integral Systems' EPOCH Integrated Product Suite (IPS) to provide a complete real-time command and control system as well as automated scheduling, procedure execution, offline trending and analysis, and flight dynamics functions. [Link to Additional Information](#)

Eutelsat Communications announced Astrium will build the HOT BIRD™ 10 broadcast satellite which will be launched in first quarter 2009 and positioned at the Group's 13 degrees East location. Following HOT BIRD™ 8 and 9, it is the third high-power broadcast satellite based on Astrium's Eurostar E3000 platform that will be located at Eutelsat's premium video neighbourhood for cable and satellite broadcasting. The procurement of HOT BIRD™ 10 underpins Eutelsat's objectives to continue to renew capacity at its HOT BIRD™ neighbourhood, to raise in-orbit redundancy and security for broadcasting clients and to increase overall flexibility across its satellite fleet. Eutelsat's 13 degrees East neighbourhood today broadcasts 950 television channels and 540 radio stations to 110 million cable and satellite homes across Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. [Link to Additional Information](#)

The first live traffic has been beamed via **Inmarsat's** next-generation aeronautical SwiftBroadband service aboard an executive Gulfstream jet. The G550 business jet - fitted with avionics and an antenna from Inmarsat partners Honeywell and EMS Satcom - successfully sent live data over the new broadband system. [Link to Additional Information](#)

Alliant Techsystems has received a \$17.5 million contract from Orbital Sciences Corporation for CASTOR 120 motors. The motors will be used on the Taurus XL launch vehicle and will support NASA's Orbiting Carbon Observatory (OCO) and Glory earth science satellite missions scheduled for launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. in 2008. ATK Launch Systems will perform the work at its Promontory, Utah, facility. [Link to Additional Information](#)

Stratos Global Corp. announced the extension of its offer to exchange any and all of its outstanding 9 $\frac{7}{8}$ percent Senior Notes due 2013 for an equal amount of its new 9 $\frac{7}{8}$ percent Senior Notes due 2013 which have been registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. [Link to Additional Information](#)

The **Sea Launch** team is preparing for its fifth mission of 2006 with the launch of XM Satellite Radio's XM-4 satellite. The Odyssey Launch Platform and Sea Launch Commander have departed from Home Port in Long Beach, Calif., and are on their way to the launch site to begin operations. According to the company, liftoff is planned at the opening of a 58-minute launch window beginning at 4:49 p.m. PT on Thursday, Oct. 26. *Story courtesy of SkyREPORT.*

Harris Corporation announced its successful uplink to a Milstar satellite using an Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF) Navy Multiband Terminal prototype system. Harris said the milestone follows the company's announcement last month that it was the first to acquire and track low- and medium-data-rate waveforms on Milstar 6 using the same prototype terminal. An SCA 2.2.1-compliant software programmable modem developed by Harris was instrumental in

both successful demonstrations. Once fielded, the terminal will serve as the common element of naval information networks, providing interconnection of individual naval assets with other services and, eventually, with the Global Information Grid. [Link to Additional Information](#)

Europe entered a new era of weather and climate monitoring when the first in the series of operational meteorological satellites in polar orbit, MetOp, was successfully launched from Baikonur, Kazakhstan on a Soyuz Fregat launcher. All MetOp satellites are developed by a joint **EUMETSAT** and European Space Agency (ESA) team, with EADS Astrium as the prime contractor. [Link to Additional Information](#)

EchoStar has launched the "DISH Network High-Speed Internet powered by WildBlue," a satellite-delivered broadband service. The offering will be bundled with the company's small dish video product. A separate satellite dish is required to receive the high-speed Internet service; but an additional phone line is not necessary. *Story courtesy of SkyREPORT.*

Communications systems company **Andrew Corporation** and **Overwatch Systems** have agreed to integrate and jointly market satellite antenna systems with dual band capability for both military and government usage. Under the agreement, Andrew's satellite communications antennas will be paired with Overwatch's proprietary dual band feeds to create a "robust" and "reliable" offering for government systems integrators and agencies. The move will enable Andrew's multiband antennas to receive and send signals to satellites that utilize dual bands, such as X-band and Ka-band, without changing feed systems, the company said. *Story courtesy of SkyREPORT.*

Upcoming Meetings and Events

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

14 November 2006 - SSPI Mid-Atlantic Chapter Networking & Panel Discussion "Solving the DoD Bandwidth Requirements via Communications Satellite," The Boeing Company, 1200 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA. Contact La Rene Tondro sspi@erols.com for additional information.

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.