

**Integral Systems, Inc.** announced the on schedule Handover of satellite bus operations for the initial WGS [Wideband Global SATCOM (Satellite Communications)] satellite to the CCS-C (Command and Control System – Consolidated) baseline. WGS is the third MILSATCOM (Military Satellite Communications) program to successfully transition onto the CCS-C baseline. [Link to additional information](#)

**Northrop Grumman Corporation** has demonstrated the interface compatibility of the next-generation Advanced Extremely High Frequency (EHF) military communications satellite with user ground terminals using the new Extended Data Rate (XDR) waveform and protocols. Tests were conducted using a U.S. Army user terminal as well as a terminal configuration to be used by international partners participating in Advanced EHF. Advanced EHF is a joint service satellite communications system that will provide global survivable, protected and assured communications for high-priority military ground, sea and air assets. [Link to additional information](#)

**SES AMERICOM** announced the debut of [satellitewiki.com](http://satellitewiki.com), satellitewiki.com, a wiki devoted to the satellite industry. The timing of the debut coincides with the 50th anniversary of the launch of Explorer 1, the first U.S. satellite. Using the same style and software used to power Wikipedia, [satellitewiki.com](http://satellitewiki.com) lets visitors explore the history of man-made satellites, definitions of satellite terms and learn about how satellites impact a wide range of industries from oil and gas to television. [Link to additional information](#)

As **Iridium® Satellite** continues to gain momentum in the aeronautical satellite communications market for the world's major airlines, the company is proud to announce that Avianca Airlines of Columbia is installing Avionica's Iridium-based satLINK Communications Module on its fleet of 14 long-range Boeing 757 and 767 aircraft. Avianca is the oldest airline in the Americas and the second-oldest in the world. [Link to additional information](#)

**SES AMERICOM** announced that the company sold out its entire available inventory of Ku-band transponder capacity to support news reporting of Super Tuesday presidential primary elections across the United States. Occasional use satellite services allow media companies to purchase capacity on SES AMERICOM satellites to support special events and short-term broadcasting needs. [Link to additional information](#)

**Intelsat, Ltd.** announced that the editors of Access Intelligence's Via Satellite magazine have selected Kalpak Gude, Intelsat's Deputy General Counsel, as one of its Satellite Executives of the Year for 2007. Via Satellite magazine will showcase Gude and his business accomplishments in its "Executive of the Year" cover feature in the March 2008 issue. Likewise, Gude will address attendees during the Satellite Executive of the Year 2007 award luncheon address at this year's SATELLITE 2008 conference and exhibition at the Washington, D.C., Convention Center. [Link to additional information](#)

**Iridium® Satellite** has recently upgraded the satellite phones used by Russian cosmonauts when returning to Earth from the International Space Station (ISS). The

Russian authorities are replacing the older 9505 Iridium handsets, which have been in service since 2003, with new-generation 9505A units. [Link to additional information](#)

As part of its commitment to provide the next generation of video services for cable operators, the Comcast Media Center (CMC), a business unit of Comcast Cable, has expanded its relationship with **SES AMERICOM** by signing a multi-year, multi-transponder contract. Eventually, the CMC will use 29 C-band transponders in SES AMERICOM's HD-PRIME(R) satellite neighborhood to deliver the current HITS Quantum platform plus additional services to HITS affiliates. The move to C-band from Ku-band will enhance service reliability and provide easier access to more programming and advanced service offerings such as HD and VOD. [Link to additional information](#)

**TerreStar Corporation** and its subsidiary TerreStar Networks Inc., which is building the nation's first integrated mobile satellite-terrestrial (MSS/ATC) communications network, today announced that EchoStar Corporation, Harbinger Capital Partners Master Fund I, Ltd. and Harbinger Capital Partners Special Situations Fund LP (collectively, Harbinger) and other investors have entered into a series of separate agreements constituting a commitment of \$300 million in investments in TerreStar – with \$200 million made available today at closing and the balance dedicated to funding the TerreStar-2 satellite. [Link to additional information](#)

ViaSat recruited a well-known industry veteran to run its developing satellite broadband venture. The company appointed Tom Moore as a senior vice president and president of its recently announced ViaSat 1 Ka-Band broadband satellite initiative. Moore is best known as a co-founder, director and former president and CEO of **WildBlue** Communications. Most recently, Moore served as a principal at TimesArrow, a telecom and technology venture firm located in Denver. As part of his role supporting the firm's investments, Moore serves in senior management positions in portfolio companies including president and CEO of WaveBender, a flat panel antenna technology company. Story Courtesy of SkyREPORT

A Proton launch vehicle successfully lifted the THOR 5 satellite into orbit, marking the first mission of the year for International Launch Services (ILS), and the second Proton flight in two weeks. The Proton Breeze M vehicle, built by ILS partner Khrunichev Space Center of Moscow, lifted off from Pad 39 at the cosmodrome. After a 9-hour-23-minute mission, the launcher released the satellite directly into geostationary orbit. [Link to additional information](#)

Competitors in the grueling Tesoro Iron Dog snowmobile race will not be out of sight at any time during their nearly 2,000-mile competition across the Alaskan wilderness, thanks to an **Iridium**®-enabled tracking system developed by World Communication Center (WCC). Billed as the “World’s Longest, Toughest Snowmobile Race,” the Tesoro Iron Dog competition covers 1,971 miles from Wasilla to Nome to Fairbanks over six days. Each of the 42 two-member teams will defy sub-zero cold, poor visibility and deep snow to push their snowmobiles and bodies to the limits to reach the finish line. [Link to additional information](#)

The **Lockheed Martin** A2100 communications satellite fleet recently achieved a major milestone by accumulating 200 years of successful in-orbit operations. The A2100 satellite series, designed and manufactured at Lockheed Martin Commercial Space Systems (LMCSS), currently consists of 34 satellites featuring 1254 transponders with an accumulated lifetime of over 7800 years of successful operations in orbit. The first A2100 satellite, AMC-1, was launched Sept. 8, 1996 for SES AMERICOM. SIRIUS 4, the most recent A2100 spacecraft, was successfully launched on Nov. 18, 2007 for SES SIRIUS. [Link to additional information](#)