



PRESS RELEASE:

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

SIA Applauds FCC's 'State of the Satellite Industry' Report

September 10, 2003 - (Washington, DC) – The Satellite Industry Association applauds the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) International Bureau for preparing and presenting the 'State of the Satellite Industry' report during today's Commission meeting. We also welcome the announcement that the Commission will host a Rural Satellite Forum on January 28, 2004 to further discuss the role that satellites play today and will play in the future in ensuring the connectivity of rural America.

Richard DalBello, President of the SIA, congratulated the International Bureau for creating such a concise overview of the satellite industry saying "through this single presentation the International Bureau was able to touch upon many critical roles that satellites play in our economic and physical security."

The report, presented by Don Abelson, Chief of the FCC's International Bureau, highlighted the continued steady growth of the satellite industry during the current economic downturn and as well as the critical role that satellite play in disaster relief and recovery, homeland security, national security, and service to rural and remote regions and communities. "This report did an outstanding job of highlighting the satellite industry's unique ability to serve all regions of the world, regardless of population or location" said DalBello, "and we also look forward to working together closely with the Commission in preparation for its Rural Satellite Forum in January 2004."

In addition, the SIA appreciated the supportive comments of Chairman Powell, as well as Commissioners Abernathy, Martin, Copps and Adelstein, all of which recognized the critical role of satellites. Most notable was Commissioner Copps' recognition that the satellite industry needs "regulatory certainty, time, and critically, adequate spectrum to make their hard work pay off for all of us."

SIA is a national trade association representing the world's leading satellite manufacturers, service providers, and launch service companies. SIA serves as an advocate for the commercial satellite industry on regulatory and policy issues common to its members. With member companies providing a broad range of manufactured products and services throughout the world, SIA represents the unified voice of the commercial satellite industry.

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