



SIA lauds CSIS Report on U.S. Export Controls

Washington, DC – May 3, 2002 -- The Satellite Industry Association (SIA) broadly endorsed the conclusions of the CSIS Report, released today, entitled “*Preserving America's Advantage in Satellite Technology*”. The report noted that the United States could no longer afford to advocate strength in space while pursuing policies and regulations that weaken the industrial base on which U.S. national security depends. The commercial satellite market has been shrinking over the last few years, employment has fallen dramatically, and many of our domestic manufacturers and small component suppliers are considering exiting the industry if something is not done. The report further notes that at the same time this shrinking effect has been occurring, the U.S. has been unable to prevent other nations from acquiring the same space capabilities we are restricting in the U.S.

In 1998, congressional concerns over technology transfer led to legislation that transferred the export-licensing jurisdiction for communications satellites to the Department of State. A review of changes in U.S. satellite revenues and commercial communications market share shows that there has been significant damage. Legislation currently pending in Congress to return jurisdiction to Commerce for communications satellites, which includes extensive technology safeguards, would go far toward repairing such damage to the U.S. satellite industry.

Richard DalBello, Executive Director of the SIA agreed with the CSIS conclusions stating, “communications satellites are commercial items that should not be regulated as military technology.” Richard DalBello further stated; “the slow, deliberative State licensing process is appropriate for military products but is wholly inadequate for the fast-paced, competitive commercial world. Transferring licensing authority back to the Commerce Department will simplify and clarify the export process and will encourage the growth and competitiveness of this critical industry.”

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

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