



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SIA SUPPORTS SATELLITE-DELIVERED BROADBAND INCENTIVES
FOR NEW ADMINISTRATION'S ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE**

Washington, D.C. December, 19, 2008 – Satellite Industry Association (SIA) urged Congress to include satellite-delivered broadband deployment incentives and grants as part of the economic stimulus bill.

In an open letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) , Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), and Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Representative John Boehner (R-OH), SIA underscored the ability of satellite-based broadband incentives to create jobs, boost productivity, and address key economic concerns including healthcare, public safety, and education. Satellite technologies provide the only broadband networks capable of reaching the more than 10 million Americans that live and/or work in remote and rural parts of the nation that are not currently or never will be served by a terrestrial wired or wireless broadband network.

SIA echoed calls from the communications industry that urge Congress and the new administration to keep broadband at the forefront of the economic stimulus package. “Without satellite systems, this nation will simply not reach universal access to broadband services,” noted SIA President Patricia Cooper. “We propose focusing incentives on the end user’s up-front equipment and installation costs, in order to spur broadband adoption among the more than ten million Americans that are now unserved or underserved. With the end-user at the center of incentives, satellite broadband networks can begin *immediately* to boost economic development and employment, particularly by offering broadband services to millions of additional Americans that have been bypassed today. “

SIA, a U.S.-based trade association representing satellite operators, service providers, manufacturers, launch services providers and ground equipment suppliers, estimates that satellite broadband networks serve close to one million homes and businesses in the U.S. By creating deployment incentives and grants, Congress and the new administration will enable satellite operators and service providers to improve and expand existing networks further developing more robust and affordable communications able to reach underserved and unserved communities alike. Additionally, satellite communications’ can provide back-up availability and reliability for terrestrial networks to ensure continued and uninterrupted service.

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By supporting SIA's position as an essential component of the economic stimulus package, Congress will enable the new administration to design and build a comprehensive satellite-based communications network ensuring its goal of providing broadband access to all Americans.

About the Satellite Industry Association

SIA is a U.S.-based trade association providing worldwide representation of the leading satellite operators, service providers, manufacturers, launch services providers, and ground equipment suppliers. SIA is the unified voice of the U.S. satellite industry on policy, regulatory, and legislative issues affecting the satellite business.

SIA Executive Members include: Arrowhead Global Solutions Inc.; Artel Inc.; The Boeing Company; DataPath, Inc.; The DIRECTV Group; Hughes Network Systems, LLC; ICO Global Communications; Integral Systems, Inc.; Intelsat, Ltd.; Iridium Satellite, LLC; Lockheed Martin Corp.; Loral Space & Communications Inc.; Northrop Grumman Corporation; SES Americom, Inc.; SkyTerra; and TerreStar Networks, Inc. Associate Members include: ATK Inc.; Comtech EF Data Corp.; Constellation Networks Corp.; EchoStar Satellite, LLC; EMC, Inc.; Eutelsat Inc.; iDirect Government Technologies; Inmarsat Inc.; Marshall Communications Corp.; Panasonic Avionics Corporation; SES New Skies Satellites, Inc.; Spacecom Ltd.; Spacenet Inc.; Stratos Global Corp; SWE-DISH Space Corp; Telesat; and WildBlue Communications, Inc.

Additional information about SIA can be found at <http://www.sia.org>.

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