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**PRESS STATEMENT**

**SATELLITE INDUSTRY SUPPORTS LEGISLATION FUNDING  
INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT  
FOR FIRST RESPONDERS**

**Washington, DC, September 22, 2008**— The Satellite Industry Association (“SIA”) applauds the introduction last week of S. 3465, the Reliable, Effective, and Sustained Procurement Of New Devices for Emergency Responders Act (“RESPONDER Act”). Introduced by Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss) and co-sponsored by Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss), the RESPONDER Act would reserve certain proceeds from the auction of spectrum, including the D-block auction, to provide interoperable devices to public safety personnel.

“Satellites are a crucial element in emergency communications, as demonstrated during the recent Gustav, Hannah, and Ike Hurricanes,” SIA President Patricia Cooper said. “We support the objectives of the RESPONDER to help fund the nation’s public safety and emergency personnel to purchase interoperable communications devices and look forward to working with the bill’s sponsors to take the idea forward,” she added.

“The RESPONDER Act recognizes that integrating satellite services with terrestrial services for emergency responders ensures that reliable, interoperable communications are available, even when the terrestrial network is not available,” SIA Chairman Jennifer Manner said.

SIA is a U.S.-based trade association providing worldwide representation of the leading satellite operators, service providers, manufacturers, launch services providers, remote sensing operators, 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.; Mobile Satellite Ventures LP; Northrop Grumman Corporation; SES Americom, Inc.; and TerreStar Networks Inc. Associate Members include: ATK Inc.; Comtech EF Data Corp.; EchoStar Corporation; EMC Inc.; Eutelsat Inc.; Inmarsat Inc.; Marshall Communications Corp.; New Skies Satellites, Inc.; Spacecom Ltd.; Spacenet Inc.; Stratos Global Corp; SWE-DISH Satellite Systems; Telesat Corp., XTAR, LLC and WildBlue Communications, Inc. Additional information can be found at [www.sia.org](http://www.sia.org).

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