FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SATELLITE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION TESTIFIES ON SATELLITE EXPORT CONTROLS BEFORE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Washington, D.C. April 2, 2009 – The Satellite Industry Association (SIA) today pressed Congress to reform U.S. export policies for commercial satellites during an open hearing on satellite export controls held by the House Foreign Affairs Committee’s Subcommittee on Terrorism, Non-Proliferation and Trade.

“SIA believes that the current rules governing exports of communications satellites sold commercially have resulted in overly broad regulation that disadvantages U.S. spacecraft and component manufacturers in the global marketplace,” testified Patricia Cooper, SIA’s President during the hearing.

Communications satellites are the only commodities on the United States Munitions List (USML) for which export licensing jurisdiction is mandated by law, rather than regulation. SIA questioned whether commercial communications satellite technology merits this extraordinary and unique position of legislative oversight in comparison to all other sensitive technologies included in USML. By restoring the Executive Branch’s authority for export control of satellites, SIA believes that the focus will be directed on militarily sensitive technologies, and reflect more accurately the state of technology and commerce in the satellite sector.

Ms. Cooper concluded by stating that, “…such reform will result in a healthier satellite sector, reinforcing the American industrial position in the global marketplace and at home and safeguarding both jobs and critical space technology for the nation.”

The Subcommittee retains oversight of export control policy, including the transfer of dual-use equipment and technology, and is a standing subcommittee within the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Rep. Bradley Sherman (D-CA) chairs the Subcommittee, with Rep. Edward Royce (R-CA) serving the Ranking Member.
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.; DRS Technologies; EchoStar Satellite, LLC; EMC, Inc.; Eutelsat Inc.; iDirect Government Technologies; Inmarsat Inc.; Marshall Communications Corp.; Panasonic Avionics Corporation; Spacecom Ltd.; Stratos Global Corp; SWE-DISH Space Corp; Telesat; ViaSat, Inc.; and WildBlue Communications, Inc.

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

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