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## TWO SATELLITE PROPOSALS APPROVED AT FCC OPEN MEETING

Washington, D.C., May 9, 2012 - The Satellite Industry Association (SIA) noted with interest that the Federal Communications Commission adopted two satellite-related notices of proposed rulemaking (NPRMs) at its open meeting earlier today: "Expanding Access to Broadband and Encouraging Innovation through the Establishment of an Air-Ground Mobile Broadband Secondary Service for Passengers Aboard Aircraft in the 14.0-14.5 GHz band" and "Amendment of Part 2 of the Commission's Rules for Federal Earth Stations Communicating with Non-Federal Fixed Satellite Service Space Stations."

FCC Chairman Genachowski noted at the meeting that the space industry continues to drive technology innovation and economic growth for the United States. With revenues growing 175 percent in the past decade, the satellite sector is the driving force behind the global commercial space industry. "SIA is pleased to see the Commission underscore the importance of commercial space and satellites at today's Open Meeting. The satellite sector contributes 60 percent of the world's space revenues, allowing us to invest, employ, and lead in innovative space and communications technologies," said **Patricia Cooper, the President of SIA**. "SIA and its members will continue to participate actively in both dockets and review the proposals in close detail. We urge the Commission to carefully consider the impact of its regulatory decisions on the satellite sector, which has invested tens of billions of dollars in satellites and earth stations and provides vital services to millions of Americans."

SIA has significant concerns about and opposes the NPRM to authorize an air-ground mobile broadband service for passengers aboard aircraft as a secondary service in the 14.0-14.5 GHz band ("Ku-band"). SIA has filed with the Commission detailed technical analyses that demonstrate that the proposed air-ground service would cause interference into the satellite services that are primary in that band and are relied upon by media, enterprise, public safety and U.S. military customers for essential services. These Ku-band satellite services represent extraordinary technical innovation and billions of dollars of investment in both spacecraft and satellite ground systems, generating more than \$1 billion in North American revenue annually. SIA's filings have stressed the importance of not only protecting existing satellite services, but also ensuring that the industry's ability to continue to innovate is not limited by the proposed secondary service. SIA's filings have also shown that the proposed air-ground

system will suffer significant interference from existing Ku-band satellite services and will not be able to function as envisioned.

SIA has supported the proposal to amend the Commission's rules for the federal government's earth stations that communicate with commercial fixed satellite service space stations. The U.S. government is a key customer of the commercial satellite sector, and SIA has filed in support of steps to allow federal earth stations to be licensed and operated under the same regulatory framework that applies to non-federal satellite earth stations. SIA has asked the Commission not insert any new regulatory or approval steps into the current, efficient process for granting non-federal earth station licenses.

### **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. Since its creation more than fifteen years ago, SIA has advocated for the unified voice of the U.S. satellite industry on policy, regulatory, and legislative issues affecting the satellite business.

SIA Executive Members include: Artel, LLC.; The Boeing Company; The DIRECTV Group; EchoStar Satellite Services LLC; Harris CapRock Communications; Hughes Network Systems, LLC; Intelsat, S.A.; Iridium Communications Inc.; Kratos Defense & Security Solutions; LightSquared; Lockheed Martin Corporation.; Northrop Grumman Corporation; Rockwell Collins Government Systems; SES S.A.; and Space Systems/Loral. SIA Associate Members include: AIS Engineering, Inc.; Astrium Services Government, Inc.; ATK Inc.; Cisco; Cobham SATCOM Land Systems; Comtech EF Data Corp.; DRS Technologies, Inc.; Encompass Government Solutions; Eutelsat, Inc.; Globecom Systems, Inc.; Glowlink Communications Technology, Inc.; Inmarsat, Inc.; ITT Exelis; Marshall Communications Corporation.; MTN Government Services; NewSat America, Inc.; O3b Networks; Orbital Sciences Corporation; Panasonic Avionics Corporation; Spacecom, Ltd.; Spacenet Inc.; TeleCommunication Systems, Inc.; Telesat Canada; The SI Organization, Inc.; TrustComm, Inc.; Ultisat, Inc.; ViaSat, Inc., and XTAR, LLC.