



Contact: Dean Hirasawa
Tel: +1 202 503 1562
dhirasawa@sia.org

THE SATELLITE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION WELCOMES FCC EVALUATION OF RULES FOR MOBILE WIRELESS SERVICES ABOARD AIRCRAFT

Washington, D.C., December 12, 2013 - The Satellite Industry Association (SIA) welcomes the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) initiative to consider expanding airline choices for in-flight connectivity by launching a rulemaking to review its rules on mobile wireless services onboard aircraft. Given advancements in technology and related developments, including the recent Federal Aviation Administration decision to expand the use of personal electronic devices onboard aircraft, this is an appropriate time to develop a record on the technical and regulatory issues associated with the operation of airborne access systems.

"Many SIA members currently provide off-board communications links via satellite that support in-flight mobile connectivity offerings around the world, including mobile wireless services," said Patricia Cooper, SIA's President. "SIA looks forward to reviewing the FCC's proposal and the factual record necessary for the FCC to consider appropriate changes to the FCC's rules to allow airlines the choice of whether and how to permit the use of in-flight mobile wireless services in the United States."

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 eighteen 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. For more information, visit www.sia.org.

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 Americom, Inc.; and SSL. SIA Associate Members include: AIS Engineering, Inc.; Astrium Services Government, Inc.; ATK Inc.; Cisco; Cobham SATCOM Land Systems; Comtech EF Data Corp.;

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