



## EchoStar Communications Corporation, News Corp. and MCI WorldCom Inc. Announce FCC Approval of Transfer of Assets

EchoStar Plans to Launch Two High-Powered Loral Satellites in 1999

**Littleton, Colo., May 19, 1999** EchoStar Communications Corporation, "EchoStar," (NASDAQ: DISH, DISHP), The News Corporation Limited (NYSE:NWS, NWS-A) and MCI WorldCom (NASDAQ:WCOM) today announced that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has approved the transfer from MCI WorldCom to EchoStar of the license to operate a high-powered direct broadcast satellite (DBS) business at the 110 degrees West Longitude orbital location consisting of 28 frequencies, bringing EchoStar's total to 29 frequencies at 110° W.L.

In conjunction with FCC approval, EchoStar also announced the scheduled launch of EchoStar V in late summer 1999 and EchoStar VI in December 1999, on Atlas launch vehicles from Cape Canaveral, Fla. Both satellites are scheduled to be launched to the strategic 110° W.L. orbital slot, capable of providing service to the entire continental United States, including Alaska, Hawaii and the U.S. territories in the Caribbean.

A successful EchoStar V launch in late summer will enable EchoStar's DISH Network to add over 250 channels for consumers this year. By combining the capacity of the satellites at the 110° W.L. orbital slot and EchoStar's current satellites at 119°, EchoStar's DISH Network will be able to offer over 500 channels of programming, Internet/data delivery and HDTV from a single dish.

The launches will also enhance EchoStar's leadership role in providing popular local channels by satellite. With a single 18-inch dish, over 50 percent of consumers in the United States will be able to receive their local channels with a digital picture and CD-quality audio. In smaller cities representing approximately 20 percent of the U.S. population, consumers will be able to receive local channels by satellite by installing a second dish. DISH Network currently offers local channels in 13 major cities.

"We're pleased to secure these long-term plans for EchoStar, which will allow us to provide new and exciting digital content to DISH Network subscribers," said Charlie Ergen, chairman and CEO of EchoStar. "EchoStar V and VI, when combined with our existing fleet of satellites, position EchoStar to deliver more content to American consumers from a single integrated source than any other multichannel video service provider."

Built by Space Systems/Loral in Palo Alto, Calif., EchoStar V and EchoStar VI are both high-powered FS-1300 series spacecraft. EchoStar V has 32 110W Ku-band transponders and EchoStar VI has 32 125W Ku-band transponders. Both satellites are capable of power-combining to 16 transponders each of 220W and 250W, respectively, to meet the transmission demands of today's direct-broadcast markets.

EchoStar Communications Corp., includes three interrelated business units:

- **DISH Network™** is EchoStar's state-of-the-art DBS system that offers customers over 300 channels of digital video and CD-quality audio programming, fully MPEG-2/DVB compliant hardware and installation.
- **EchoStar Technologies Corporation** (ETC, formerly HTS™ - Houston Tracker Systems, Inc.), designs, manufactures and distributes DBS set-top boxes, antennas and other digital equipment for DISH Network and various international customers that include ExpressVu Canada and Telefonica's Vía Digital system in Spain. ETC also provides uplink-center design, construction oversight and project-integration services for customers internationally.
- **Satellite Services** provides the delivery of video, audio and data services to business television customers and other satellite users. These services include satellite uplink, satellite transponder space-usage and other services. Satellite Services also administers Sky Vista, a direct broadcast satellite service offering up to 27 channels of popular digital satellite television programming to viewers in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories in the Caribbean.

DISH Network currently serves over 2.1 million customers. DISH Network is a trademark of EchoStar Communications Corporation. HTS is a trademark of Houston Tracker Systems, Inc. DISH Network is located on the Internet at:

