



# Director's Report

March 22, 2007

The Satellite Industry Association (SIA) Director's Report is a weekly executive capsule covering current satellite industry news and events. See the bottom of page for additional information.

## Recent News

The U.S. Senate tallied a 75-21 vote in support of the Interoperable Emergency Communications Act portion of the 9/11 Report Implementation Bill (S.4) which is currently under consideration on the Senate floor. According to the Satellite Industry Association, language within S.4 creates a Strategic Technology Reserve designed to preposition interoperable communications equipment for immediate action in an emergency of major disaster. *Story courtesy of SkyREPORT*

**Boeing** and its partners successfully demonstrate the ability of its Transformational Satellite (TSAT) laser communications system to deliver high-power operations at three data rates during recent U.S. Air Force tests. The tests, which built on the capabilities and performance verified during three previous demonstrations, validated the system's performance to, and interoperability with, government laser communications standards. [Link to additional information](#)

A **Boeing**-led industry team announced the successful launch of Orbital Express, a demonstration spacecraft that is part of a Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) program aimed at demonstrating fully autonomous on-orbit spacecraft servicing capabilities. Liftoff occurred from Space Launch Complex 41, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla. Following a nominal flight, the United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket deployed the spacecraft to a low-Earth orbit. [Link to additional information](#)

Major League Baseball and **DIRECTV** announced a seven-year agreement that continues carriage rights to the MLB EXTRA INNINGS subscription package of out-of-market games and includes the launch of the MLB Channel as part of DIRECTV's basic package. Included within the agreement, DIRECTV will be a minority partner in the MLB Channel, and will work with MLB to develop the network, which will launch in 2009. [Link to additional information](#)

**Globalstar, Inc.** announced that simplex data integrator AXONN, LLC, has launched a new smaller and lighter satellite data modem known as the AXTracker MMT. The AXTracker MMT is a completely self-contained satellite data device designed to communicate via the Globalstar satellite simplex data network, and is capable of providing cost-efficient and reliable asset tracking and fleet management solutions to customers from remote regions. Because it is GPS based, the device is ideal for a variety of maritime or remote asset tracking applications. [Link to additional information](#)

**Globalstar, Inc.** announced that it continues with preparations needed for a May launch of four satellites that will be used to augment the company's first generation LEO (low earth orbit) satellite constellation. These satellites, together with the additional four ground spare satellites due to be launched later this year, will revitalize the operating constellation and help ensure that the quality of service Globalstar customers have come to expect is maintained through the launch

of the second generation satellite constellation. The four Globalstar satellites are to be launched by the Euro-Russian launch services company Starsem from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. [Link to additional information](#)

**Hughes Network Systems, LLC** announced that its latest generation Hughes 9250 mobile satellite terminal has been approved to operate over Inmarsat's Broadband Global Area Network (BGAN). The Hughes 9250 is designed to deliver high-speed transmit and receive rates of over 460Kbps while on the move within Inmarsat's global BGAN satellite coverage area. Ideal for news reporters, emergency response and mobile workers, the Hughes 9250 enables a wide range of broadband applications, including data and video file transfers, Internet browsing, File Transfer Protocol (FTP), Virtual Private Network (VPN), Voice over IP (VoIP), WiFi, and video conferencing—all while on the move. [Link to additional information](#)

SAT Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Integral Systems, Inc.** announced that it will deliver its SAT-DSA (Digital Spectrum Analyzer) to IAI/MBT for its Europe based Teleport. The SAT-DSA is suited to provide Satellite Carrier monitoring and interference detection to help IAI/MBT provide quality service to its customers. SAT-DSA includes the ability to: automatically detect, characterize and display interfering signals, access historical spectral data and signal characteristics as well as support remote user access and carrier line up activities. [Link to additional information](#)

**Intelsat** announced that MultiChoice, a leading South African direct-to-home (DTH) television provider, selected Intelsat to support its mobile broadcast TV trial in the metropolitan areas of Johannesburg, Soweto, Pretoria and Cape Town. The trial seeks to refine the transmission of Digital Video Broadcasting to Handheld (DVB-H) technology as well as understand more about the viewing patterns and content preferences of subscribers for mobile TV. From its headquarters in Randburg, South Africa, MultiChoice is uplinking 10 to 12 trial channels of sports, entertainment, news, music and specially developed "made for mobile" content to Intelsat's IS-902 satellite, which then distributes the content to multiple terrestrial transmitter sites throughout the trial region. [Link to additional information](#)

**Intelsat** hosted thousands of children for a day of celebrating space and satellite communications. Intelsat and the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital are together sponsoring Girl Scout Day at the National Air and Space Museum in Chantilly, Virginia, on 17 March. Intelsat has been joined by hardware partners iDirect Technologies, a provider of satellite-based broadband access solutions, and TANDBERG, a provider of visual communication products and services. Together they created a fun and interactive live demonstration of commercial satellite communications for the event, located at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center. [Link to additional information](#)

**Iridium® Satellite** announces that ten additional Service Providers have agreed to participate in the company's industry-first Network Quality Guarantee Program. The ten new Service Providers enrolling in the Network Quality Guarantee Program are Applied Satellite Technology Ltd ([www.satcomms.com/iridium.php](http://www.satcomms.com/iridium.php)), Fibertel ([www.fibertel.es](http://www.fibertel.es)), France Telecom ([www.francetelecom-mobilesat.com](http://www.francetelecom-mobilesat.com)), General Dynamics C4 Systems

(www.gdc4s.com/service/iridium/index.cfm), Geolink (www.geolink.com), IDL Corporation (www.idl-corp.com), The SatCom Group Ltd (www.satcomgroup.com, www.wcclp.com, www.horizon-mobile.com), Selex Communications Ltd (www.selexmarine.com), Sky Connect LLC (www.skyconnect.aero) and TR Telecom (www.trtelecom.com). These ten Service Providers join seven other existing program participants. [Link to additional information](#)

**Iridium Satellite®** announced its compliance with new requirements for providing enhanced maritime domain awareness services to national governments. Following the recent conclusion of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) COMSAR 11 meeting, Iridium confirmed its network's ability to provide long-range identification and tracking (LRIT) of ships. As the only mobile satellite service with truly global coverage over all sea areas, including Polar Regions, the Iridium network is uniquely positioned to support this new global safety and security system. [Link to additional information](#)

The U.S. Air Force has approved **Northrop Grumman Corporation's** plan to begin formal development of a new satellite communication system for the B-2 stealth bomber that will eventually allow the aircraft to send and receive battlefield information up to 100 times faster than today. [Link to additional information](#)

**Alliant Techsystems** composite technology supported yesterday's successful launch of the United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla. The launch will place Orbital Express in-space refueling demonstration mission into orbit. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency is the mission sponsor for the Orbital Express demonstration. The satellite demonstration mission is set to conduct the first autonomous component exchange and first U.S. in-space refueling, as well as autonomous rendezvous and docking. ATK also provided the solar array systems for both the ASTRO and NextSat satellites. [Link to additional information](#)

The EUROIRD™ 4\* satellite of **Eutelsat Communications** has initiated commercial service at the Group's 4 degrees East position. The satellite's entry into service at 4 degrees East marks the opening of a new orbital location for Eutelsat, taking to 18 the number of positions currently used by the Group. EUROIRD™ 4 provides coverage from 4 degrees East of Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and central Asia in Ku-band frequencies. [Link to additional information](#)

Télécoms Sans Frontières (TSF) has pulled out of Mozambique after successfully establishing emergency satellite communications via **Inmarsat** to co-ordinate the humanitarian mission in the flood- and cyclone-hit country. TSF was initially deployed as official United Nations (UN) first responders for telecommunications when severe flooding in February left an estimated 90,000 people homeless. Central Mozambique was then hit by a category 4 tropical cyclone, with wind speeds reaching 270kmh (170mph), leaving a further 60,000 people needing shelter. The role of the Inmarsat-sponsored agency has been to provide telecommunications services to UN agencies and NGOs during the first weeks of the disaster response. Before completing their mission, the TSF team handed over the two-centre operation to aid agency representatives. [Link to additional information](#)

**SES NEW SKIES** is pleased to announce that its NSS-5 satellite has been selected by the Office des Postes et Telecommunications of French Polynesia (OPT) to provide Internet trunking services to the 118 islands constituting French Polynesia. NSS-5, positioned at the orbital location of 183° East, is SES NEW SKIES' principal connectivity satellite for the Pacific Ocean Region. [Link to additional information](#)

**Stratos Global Corp.** announced that it has entered into a definitive agreement to be acquired by CIP Canada Investment Inc. ("CIP Canada"), a professional investment company with a focus on satellite services. Until at least April 2009, an independent Canadian trust established by CIP Canada will hold the Stratos shares and exercise sole voting control over Stratos. The total transaction value, including the assumption of net debt, is US\$576 million at current exchange rates. [Link to additional information](#)

**Arianespace** successfully delivered the military communications satellite Skynet 5A for the British Ministry of Defense (MoD), and the civil communications satellite Insat 4B for the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) into orbit. The launch marks the company's 31st Ariane 5 launch - first of 2007 - with 17 successful attempts in a row. *Story courtesy of SkyREPORT*

The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (**NTIA**) detailed the final rule for the digital-to-analog converter box coupon program aimed at helping consumers receiving over-the-air TV after the analog signals cease broadcasting. The agency called the digital transition "a historic change... for the American consumer" and the coupon program will help ease American viewers into the new era of TV. *Story courtesy of SkyREPORT*

The Prime Minister and the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts announced the **Australian Broadband Guarantee** on 7 March 2007. The Australian Broadband Guarantee will provide subsidised Internet access for Australians currently unable to gain a reasonable level of broadband service at their principal place of residence or small business. [Link to additional information](#)

**Mobile Satellite Ventures** (MSV) announced the appointment of John H. Mattingly, a 20 year veteran of the satellite services industry, to the position of President, Satellite Services. Mr. Mattingly will be responsible for overall management and direction of MSV's satellite services business. [Link to additional information](#)

**Spacenet Inc.** announced that Alan Kittson has joined the company as its Vice President of Government Services Sales. Kittson will oversee the strategic direction and sales efforts of Spacenet's expanded government services unit, providing satellite network solutions for federal, state and local government markets in the United States. [Link to additional information](#)

## **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

**26-30 March 2007** - International Wireless Communications Expo, Las Vegas Convention Center, iwceexpo.com

**10-13 April 2007** - 25th AIAA International Communications Satellite Systems Conference, "Evolution Toward a Ubiquitous Network Society" COEX, Seoul, Korea [www.icssc2007.com](http://www.icssc2007.com)

**21-23 May 2007** – MSUA-4, Pier 5 Hotel, Baltimore, MD <http://www.msua.org/msua4/>

**5-7 June 2007** – ISCE 2007, San Diego, California [www.isce.com](http://www.isce.com)

**18-20 September 2007** - APSCC 2007 Satellite Conference and Exhibition, Millennium Hilton, Bangkok, Thailand <http://www.apsc.or.kr/event/apsc2007.asp>

**November 2007** – DoD Satcom Workshop, Washington, DC

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