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SIA Announces the Recipients of the 2008 *Satellite Leadership in Government Award*

Washington, DC – The Satellite Industry Association, the nation’s leading trade association for the satellite industry, announced the recipients of the 2008 *Satellite Leadership in Government Award* during the eleventh annual Satellite Leadership Dinner at Union Station’s East Hall on Monday, February 25, 2008. SIA honored **General James E. Cartwright**, USMC, Vice-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for his long-standing support of the Defense Department’s incorporation of commercial satellite communications; and Ambassador **Richard M. Russell**, Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the Executive Office of the President, for his leadership as U.S. Ambassador to the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC).

“SIA is pleased to recognize the invaluable support both General Cartwright and Ambassador Russell have lent to the satellite industry,” said Patricia Cooper, President of the Satellite Industry Association. “General Cartwright has long championed commercial satellite technology as a key component in serving the warfighter.” “Ambassador Russell was a pivotal leader at last year’s WRC in safeguarding satellite spectrum from harmful interference from terrestrial services,” added Jennifer Manner, Chairman of SIA’s Board of Directors.

“The Department of Defense relies on commercial satellites for its critical communications and will continue to do so,” stated General Cartwright in his acceptance remarks. Ambassador Russell commented “Working together, the satellite industry helped ensure the adoption of international rules at the WRC that will enable satellites to continue to play a central role in providing communications services to customers around the globe.”

Keynote remarks at the SIA Leadership Dinner were provided by **Rep. Henry Cuellar** (D-TX), Chairman of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness and Response. Congressman Cuellar highlighted the critical role of satellite communications in emergencies and for homeland security. “Today, we can immediately address some of our communications shortfalls by looking to our communication satellites and we should do so now. We must begin the journey to build the necessary infrastructure to leverage the capabilities that exist today,” said Congressman Cuellar.

SIA’s *Satellite Leadership in Government Award* is presented to a government official or member of Congress who has demonstrated leadership and dedication to public service in working on issues affecting the satellite industry and has served as an example to others in government. The *Satellite Leadership in Government Award* has been awarded to five previous recipients.

The Satellite Industry Association is a consensus-based trade association which serves as the unified voice of the U.S. satellite industry on policy, regulatory, and legislative issues affecting the satellite business. SIA provides worldwide representation of the leading global satellite operators, service providers, manufacturers, launch services providers, integrators, ground equipment suppliers, and DBS providers.

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.; Mobile Satellite Ventures LP; Northrop Grumman Corporation; SES Americom, Inc.; and TerreStar Networks Inc. Associate Members include: ATK Inc.; Comtech EF Data Corp.; Constellation Networks Corp.; EchoStar Corporation; EMC Inc.; Eutelsat Inc.; Inmarsat Inc.; Marshall Communications Corp.; New Skies Satellites, Inc.; Spacecom Ltd.; Spacenet Inc.; Stratos Global Corp; SWE-DISH Space Corp; Telesat Corp. and WildBlue Communications, Inc. Additional information can be found at www.sia.org.

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