President's Report

Featuring the latest SIA Member News, Member News and Industry Events

SIA CONGRATULATES BRENDAN CARR AND GEOFFREY STARKS ON FCC COMMISSIONER SENATE CONFIRMATIONS

On Jan 8, SIA applauded the U.S. Senate re-confirmation of Commissioner Brendan Carr and the confirmation of Geoffrey Starks as a new Commissioner at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Mr. Carr, a former FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn. Trump. He previously served as the Assistant Bureau Chief of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau and replaces the former FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn.

SIA RE-EMPHASIZES TO THE NTIA THAT SPACE POLICY MUST ENSURE LONG-TERM ACCESS TO SPECTRUM FOR AN EXPANDING SATELLITE INDUSTRY

On Jan 22, SIA filed comments with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) regarding Developing a Sustainable Strategy for America’s future. SIA supports NTIA’s efforts to develop a long-term sustainable U.S. spectrum strategy. As recognized by the President’s Space Policy Directives and the White House Spectrum Memorandum, the commercial satellite industry plays an important and growing role in the U.S. economy and national defense. SIA encourages the NTIA to consult with the commercial satellite industry, as it considers spectrum policy relating to Earth Observation and other innovative satellite services.”

SIA ANNOUNCES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS AND WORKING GROUPS FOR 2019

On Jan 8, SIA announced that the Executive Committee Planning Group was working on an email for 2019 Board Members, which will be distributed in the coming weeks. SIA has established five working groups for 2019 to address key industry issues in greater depth: Earth Observation Forum (Giselle Creeser, Intelsat and Craig Scheffler, Planet) Regulatory Working Group (Kirsten Shumway, Boeing and Megan Kane, Spire Global) Legislative Working Group (Gwen Brown, Lockheed Martin and Todd Putnam, Viasat) Space Safety Working Group (George John, Spire Global and Jennifer Manner, EchoStar) Export Control Working Group (Kirsten Shumway, Boeing and Megan Kane, Spire Global)

SIA Member News

Viasat WiFi Hotspot Service Now Available to over 1 Million in Mexico

On Jan 22, Viasat announced that WiFi Hotspot, a new service by the Inmarsat subsidiary Viasat, is now available in Mexico, Mexican citizens and travelers can now access fast, reliable and secure WiFi wherever they are. WiFi Hotspot is now available in more than 1,000 places in the country, including airports, gas stations, big city centers and public places. The service is offered through an annual subscription or monthly estimated use.

Iridium Announces Completion of NEXT Constellation and Launch of Iridium Certus

On Jan 22, Iridium announced that all 66 Iridium NEXT satellites had been placed into orbit, bringing to a successful conclusion the first phase of the satellite constellation. The new constellation was designed to provide the world’s most advanced global mobile communications network. The completion of the NEXT constellation sets the stage for the launch of Iridium Certus, a new service that will offer high-speed, secure, global connectivity. Iridium Certus will offer satellite-based broadband, voice and messaging services, enabling businesses to connect to the world in the most remote areas.

Telesat Announces Completion of System Requirements Reviews for LEO Constellation

On Jan 8, Telesat announced that the company had completed System Requirements Reviews (SRRs) for the Telesat LEO Constellation, establishing a solid foundation for the development and deployment of the world’s first LEO satellite constellation. The SRRs were completed as part of the company’s ongoing efforts to develop a network of satellites that will provide global connectivity for governments, enterprises, and consumers. The SRRs were conducted with the participation of key partners and stakeholders, including satellite manufacturers, systems integrators, and ground stations. The completion of the SRRs marks a significant milestone in the development of the Telesat LEO Constellation, setting the stage for the next phase of the project.

Hughes Awarded U.S. Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Contract for BGAN

On Jan 8, Hughes Network Systems, LLC, a subsidiary of ViaSat Inc., announced that it had received a contract from the U.S. Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN) to provide services for the Broadband Global Area Network (BGAN) system. The contract is valued at $1.1 billion over five years and will support the operation and maintenance of the BGAN system, which provides high-speed, secure, and reliable communications services to military and government customers worldwide.

OneWeb Broadband Satellites Arrive in Kourou in Preparation for February Launch

On Jan 22, OneWeb announced that its team of satellite engineers and technicians had completed the final preparations for the upcoming launch of its first batch of satellite terminals. The company’s team was also preparing to install the satellite terminals in their respective locations, which will be ready for deployment in February. The first 50 satellites are expected to enter service within the next 12 months, providing high-speed Internet access to hundreds of thousands of people in underserved areas.

Iridium Generation GPS III Satellite Launch

On Jan 22, Iridium and SpaceX announced the successful launch of 10 Iridium NEXT satellites onboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. The launch was part of a series of launches planned to deploy the final 66 satellites of the Iridium NEXT constellation, which will provide global communications services to government, military, and commercial customers. The successful launch demonstrates Iridium’s commitment to providing reliable and secure communications services to customers worldwide.

Lockheed Martin Begins Modernization of the U.S. Air Force GPS Constellation with Next-Generation Iridium-NAVSTAR Satellites

On Jan 22, Lockheed Martin announced the successful launch and subsequent landing of its New Shepard reusable launch vehicle (center above). The launch was part of the company’s efforts to modernize the Global Positioning System (GPS) constellation, which provides critical timing and navigation services for military, government, and commercial users. The successful launch demonstrates the company’s commitment to providing reliable and secure communication services to customers worldwide.

Blue Origin announced the successful launch and planning, and looks forward to further collaboration on this effort. To view a complete copy of the filing, please visit the SIA News Page.