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RECEIVED

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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Via HAND DELIVERY

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Received

APR 01 2003

Policy Branch
International Bureau

Re: EchoStar Satellite Corporation, File Nos. 167-SAT-P/LA-95; 168-SAT-P/LA-95; 54-SAT-AMEND-96; SAT-MOD-20010608-00055; SAT-AMD-20030127-00003; 36-DSS-LA-94; 37-DSS-P/LA-94; 154-SAT-AMEND-95; SAT-MOD-20010608-00054; SAT-AMD-20030127-00004

Dear Ms. Dortch:

EchoStar Satellite Corporation (“EchoStar”) hereby provides the following information for inclusion in the above-captioned application proceedings.

The EchoStar IX satellite, a hybrid Ku-band and Ka-band Fixed-Satellite Service (“FSS”) satellite that will operate at the 121° W.L. orbit location, is now set for launch in May 2003 from a floating platform at the Equator aboard a Sea Launch rocket.¹ The satellite is scheduled for shipment to Long Beach, California, the launch platform’s departure point, no later than March 31, 2003.

As the Commission is aware, EchoStar’s Ku- and Ka-band licenses also include authority to launch and operate a Ku- and Ka-band satellite respectively at the 83° W.L. orbit location.²

¹ The EchoStar IX spacecraft is also equipped with a C-band payload licensed by another administration.

² See *EchoStar Satellite Corporation*, Order and Authorization, 13 FCC Rcd. 5664 (1997); *EchoStar Satellite Corporation*, Order and Authorization, DA 01-224 (rel. Jan. 31, 2001); *EchoStar Satellite Corporation*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, DA 02-1534 (rel. July 1, 2002); *EchoStar Satellite Corporation*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, DA 02-3085 (rel. Nov. 8, 2002) (Ka-band orders); see also *Application of EchoStar Satellite Corporation for*

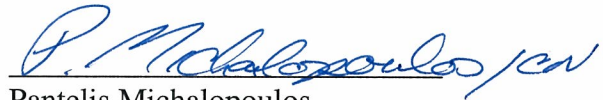
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EchoStar hereby apprises the Commission that it has in place an amended contract for the construction of a hybrid Ku- and Ka-band satellite for launch and operation at the 83° W.L. orbit location. EchoStar soon plans to file appropriate applications for minor modification of these licenses to reflect the consolidation of the two payloads into one hybrid satellite and other minor changes.³

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions concerning this submission.

Respectfully submitted,



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Authority To Construct, Launch and Operate Space Stations in the Domestic Fixed-Satellite Service, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 11 FCC Rcd 20446 (1996) (“*Ku-Band Order*”).

³ Pending before the Commission is a request for extension of EchoStar’s Ku-band license filed in 1999. *See* Request for Extension of Time To Complete Construction and To Launch Fixed-Satellite Service Satellites, File Nos. 36-DSS-LA-97; 37-DSS-P/LA-94 (filed Mar. 29, 1999). Several challenges to that license lodged in 1996 and 1997 also remain pending, and a condition relating to a supplemental financial showing that EchoStar was asked to make in the *Ku-Band Order* remains pending as well. *See Ku-Band Order* at ¶¶ 12, 16; *see also* Satellite Policy Branch Information: Applications Accepted for Filing/Actions Taken, *Public Notice*, Rpt. No. SPB-75, 1997 FCC LEXIS 753 (Feb. 10, 1997).