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January 6, 2005

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SERVICE

Via Hand Delivery Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

> Re: Mobile Satellite Ventures Subsidiary LLC *Ex Parte* Presentation IB Docket No. 01-185 File No. SAT-MOD-20031118-00333 (ATC application) File No. SAT-AMD-20031118-00332 (ATC application) File No. SES-MOD-20031118-01879 (ATC application)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Central Communications and Electronics, Inc. hereby urges the Commission to afford L-band Mobile Satellite Service ("MSS") operators greater flexibility in their provision of an Ancillary Terrestrial Component ("ATC"), as requested by Mobile Satellite Ventures LP ("MSV") in the above-captioned proceedings. The increased flexibility requested by MSV will ensure that nextgeneration MSS systems in the L-band can finally achieve the ubiquitous coverage, capacity, and economies of scale needed for a true consumer service. In contrast, the restrictions on L-band ATC advocated by Inmarsat Ventures plc ("Inmarsat") will only ensure that MSS forever remains a niche service catering to price-insensitive users operating in remote areas.

Central Communications and Electronics, Inc. has provided MSS for the last 10 years using the L-band satellites of MSV and Mobile Satellite Ventures (Canada) Inc. Central Communications and Electronics, Inc. currently provides voice (two way and telephone) and data services to end user customers throughout the United States. Our customers include the Tennessee Valley Authority, the State of Tennessee (Tennessee Dept. Safety, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, Tennessee Office of Homeland Security, The Governor of the State of Tennessee, Tennessee Army and Air National Guard, Tennessee Department of Health and many others) several municipal hospitals across the state, non profit agencies and private business.

While Central Communications and Electronics, Inc. has developed a viable business that includes current-generation MSS satellites to serve niche markets, we are excited about the future potential for MSS when supplemented with ATC. To date, MSS has been characterized by suitcase-sized user terminals, limited coverage, low data rates, and equipment and service prices far exceeding that offered by terrestrial wireless operators. Because the market for this type of service is small, the economies of scale needed to drive down equipment and service prices have not developed. With ATC, however, MSS has the potential to evolve into a true

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consumer service. ATC will provide the coverage, capacity, and economies of scale needed to bring MSS equipment and service prices to affordable levels. Moreover, by overcoming satellite signal blockage in urban areas, ATC will allow MSS to become a truly ubiquitous service, allowing service providers to market their products to customers not only in rural and remote areas but to customers in the most densely populated urban cores as well.

Central Communications and Electronics, Inc. understands that concerns of potential interference that could delay MSV's development of a next-generation MSS system. These concerns are overstated and speculative. For example, our customers will continue to use their satellite-only terminals after MSV deploys ATC, but we are not concerned that these terminals will experience interference from MSV's ATC base stations. This is because our customers do not use their satellite-only terminals in areas where MSV is expected to deploy base stations to overcome satellite signal blockage. By definition, if MSV needs to deploy an ATC base station to overcome signal blockage, our satellite-only terminals will not work effectively in those areas.

The Commission is at a crossroads in the development of MSS technology. Central Communications and Electronics Inc. urges the Commission to follow the path of innovation and better consumer service by adopting MSV's proposals for increased flexibility for ATC in the L-band.

Respectfully,

Ann Rita Ditmore VP Director of Marketing Central Communications and Electronics, Inc.