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FILED/ACCEPTED

JUL - 3 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

July 3, 2007

Via HAND DELIVERY

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

Re: **EchoStar Satellite Operating Corporation**
File No. SAT-STA-20070329-00058

Dear Ms. Dortch,

EchoStar Satellite Operating Corporation hereby submits for the public file a redacted version of a Status Report describing the operating status of the EchoStar 3 satellite and the status of the replacement satellite for the EchoStar 3 satellite. An unredacted version of this report is being submitted separately with a request for confidential treatment pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457 and 0.459.

Yours sincerely,



Pantelis Michalopoulos
Counsel for EchoStar Satellite Operating Corp.

cc:
Robert Nelson, International Bureau

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

In the Matter of)
)
EchoStar Satellite Operating Corporation)
)
Application for Extension and Modification of) File No. SAT-STA-20070329-00058
Special Temporary Authority to Operate)
Direct Broadcast Satellite Service over)
Channels 23 and 24 at the 61.5° W.L. Orbital)
Location)

STATUS REPORT

On April 20, 2007, the International Bureau (“Bureau”) granted the application of EchoStar Satellite Operating Corporation (“EchoStar”) to renew its Special Temporary Authority to operate on the two unassigned DBS channels at the 61.5° W.L. orbital location.¹ As required by Conditions 4 and 5 of the *Stamp Grant*, EchoStar hereby submits a report on (1) the operating status of the EchoStar 3 satellite (including any change since March 5, 2007), and (2) the status of the replacement satellite for EchoStar 3 (including the status of the associated launch vehicle).

EchoStar 3. EchoStar reports that the operating status of the EchoStar 3 satellite has not changed since EchoStar last reported on its status on March 5, 2007.² The latest Spacecraft Health Report for EchoStar 3 is attached as Confidential Attachment 1 (redacted).

Replacement Satellite. EchoStar updates the information on the replacement satellite for EchoStar 3 contained in the March 5, 2007 report, as follows. [

¹ See *EchoStar Satellite Operating Corporation*, File No. SAT-STA-20070329-00058, Stamp Grant (Apr. 20, 2007) (“*Stamp Grant*”).

² See Confidential Letter from Pantelis Michalopoulos, Counsel to EchoStar Satellite Operating Corp., to Marlene H. Dortch, filed in IBFS File Nos. SAT-STA-20060324-00029 and SAT-STA-20070105-00008 (filed Mar. 5, 2007).

] On June 22, 2007, EchoStar applied to launch and operate the EchoStar 11 satellite at 110° W.L.³ According to a News Release, Sea Launch -- the launch provider for EchoStar 11 -- has concluded its review into a launch failure that occurred in January this year. *See Attachment 2.*⁴ According to Sea Launch, “[a]ll systems have been cleared for operations, pending completion and tests of all repairs on the Launch Platform,” and it is “continuing to move forward to our launch operations in October.”⁵ Sea Launch has not announced how launches that were delayed by the January launch failure will be rescheduled and, therefore, it remains unclear exactly when EchoStar 11 will be launched to its intended orbital location.

In addition, as previously reported, the AMC-14 satellite has been redesigned to operate from either a full CONUS orbital location or on a wing slot (*e.g.*, 61.5° WL). The AMC-14 satellite is scheduled for launch with International Launch Services in the fourth quarter of this year. [

³ *See* File No. SAT-LOA-20060622-00085.

⁴ *See* News Release, *Sea Launch Concludes Investigation of Launch Failure*, at http://www.boeing.com/special/sea-launch/news_releases/nr_070611 (last visited July 2, 2007).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ [

] EchoStar expects to file a request to extend the special temporary authority prior to the October 1, 2007 expiration date, and commits to providing an update on any new developments at that time.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Linda Kinney
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July 3, 2007

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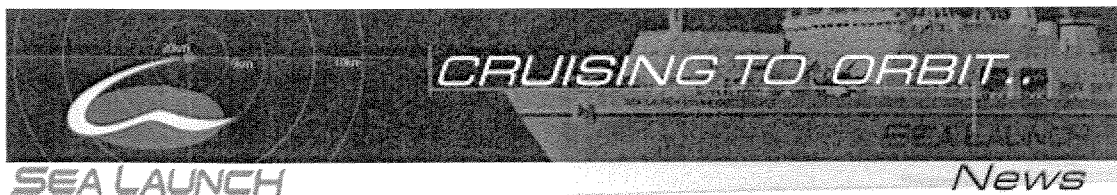
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CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT 1

(REDACTED)

**REDACTED
FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

ATTACHMENT 2



Sea Launch Concludes Investigation of Launch Failure

Long Beach, Calif., June 11, 2007 –The Sea Launch Failure Review Oversight Board (FROB) has concluded its review of the findings of an interagency CIS Joint Commission, which has been investigating the cause of the unsuccessful launch of January 30, 2007. All systems have been cleared for operations, pending completion and tests of all repairs on the Launch Platform.

The commission concluded on March 12 that the failure initiated in the liquid oxygen (LOx) turbopump section of the RD-171M main engine. Following the initial FROB meeting in April with the commission, the Sea Launch partners performed internal inspections of already manufactured and tested RD-171M engines, with the objective of confirming the LOx feed system and pumps were free of debris.

The FROB met again with the commission, May 24-June 1, to review results of the engine inspections and further findings. FROB Chairman Kirk Pysher, vice president and chief systems engineer for Sea Launch, reported that members of the FROB concurred with the commission findings, conclusions and recommendations. "The FROB resolved that the CIS team, led by Energomash experts, manufacturers of the RD-171M main engine, presented sufficient facts and data to substantiate and justify the Joint Commission's findings and conclusions," said Pysher. "The FROB concurs that the anomaly initiated within the RD-171M LOx turbopump as the result of a metallic object becoming lodged between the pump's moving and stationary components. This object ignited and burned as a result of friction-induced heat. The combustion of the object set off a string of events that led to the destruction of the LOx pump, RD-171M engine and ultimately the Zenit 3SL."

The commission performed a thorough review of operations on the RD-171M engine, following the standard full duration acceptance test that each manufactured engine undergoes at the Energomash test stand. This review included the RD-171M return-to-flight engine currently installed on a Zenit-2 vehicle awaiting launch from the Baikonur Space Center this summer. The commission found two operations with the potential for introduction of foreign object debris (FOD) into the LOx feed system. The FROB confirmed that the commission identified the necessary corrective actions to preclude these operations as potential sources for FOD introduction in the future.

"The commission has conducted an extensive and thorough review of the processes, hardware and systems related to the engine and its supporting systems," said Rob Peckham, president and general manager of Sea Launch. "The Sea Launch FROB completed its work with no constraints on continuing hardware production. We are now continuing to move forward to our launch operations in October. I am confident that we have not only identified the cause of the launch failure in January, but that we are also doing everything possible to ensure that this incident will never happen again. I am extremely proud of the professionalism and diligence demonstrated by everyone involved throughout this process and look forward to regaining our launch tempo."

In parallel with the investigation and corrective actions, the Sea Launch team is proceeding on schedule with repairs and re-certification of the *Odyssey* Launch Platform and associated launch support equipment. The Launch Platform is currently en route to a shipyard in British Columbia, where a team of specialists will be performing heavy industrial repair work and painting over the next several weeks. Sea Launch expects to complete these activities and conduct marine tests by the end of the summer. Progress of "Mission Recovery" is posted on the Sea Launch website at www.sea-launch.com.

About Sea Launch Company

Sea Launch Company, LLC, based in Long Beach, Calif., provides heavy lift launch services to commercial satellite customers. With the advantage of a launch site on the Equator, the Zenit-3SL rocket can lift a heavier spacecraft mass or provide longer life on orbit, offering best value plus schedule assurance.

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