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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See *MCI v. FCC*, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Maureen Peratino at (202) 418-0506

INMARSAT MOBILE SATELLITE SERVICES AUTHORIZED IN U.S. MARKET

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Commission has authorized earth stations to provide mobile satellite service in the United States using the Inmarsat Ventures, plc system (Inmarsat). The Commission found that Inmarsat, formerly an intergovernmental satellite organization (IGO), has privatized in a manner consistent with the Open-Market Reorganization for the Betterment of Telecommunications Act (the ORBIT Act).

The ORBIT Act was enacted on March 17, 2000 to promote a competitive market for satellite communications through privatization of the IGOs, Inmarsat and INTELSAT. The Commission found that Inmarsat, which privatized in April 1999, satisfied the privatization criteria of the ORBIT Act. The authorizations are conditioned upon Inmarsat compliance with the ORBIT Act requirement that it conduct an Initial Public Offering (IPO).

As a result of the Commission's action, U.S. customers will be able to use the Inmarsat satellite system for a variety of aeronautical, maritime and land mobile satellite communications services, including voice, data, facsimile and high-speed Internet. These authorizations will increase competition among mobile satellite services and provide additional service options for U.S. consumers.

Action by the Commission by Memorandum Opinion, Order and Authorization (FCC 01-272), Chairman Powell, Commissioners Abernathy, Copps and Martin, with Commissioner Abernathy issuing a separate statement.

For further information, contact Karl Kensinger (202) 418-0773 or John Coles (202) 418-0771.