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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

June 30, 2011

Via HAND DELIVERY to Columbia Operations Center and FCC

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

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Re: Annual Satellite Report of EchoStar Satellite Operating Corporation for Fixed-Satellite Service Authorizations and Construction of a DBS Satellite at 86.5° W.L. (S2454)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of EchoStar Satellite Operating Corporation (“ESOC”), I am enclosing the company’s annual satellite reports for its Fixed-Satellite Service (“FSS”) authorizations and its progress in building out its authority to launch and operate a Direct Broadcast Satellite (“DBS”) at the 86.5° W.L. orbital location. Please call me if you have any questions regarding this submission.

Sincerely,

/s/

Pantelis Michalopoulos
Counsel for EchoStar Satellite Operating Corporation

cc: FCC Columbia Operations Center
Mindel De La Torre (via e-mail)
Robert Nelson (via e-mail)

ANNUAL REPORT OF
ECHOSTAR SATELLITE OPERATING CORPORATION¹

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 25.210(l) and EchoStar Satellite L.L.C., *Order and Authorization*, 21 FCC Rcd. 14045 ¶ 31 (2006), EchoStar Satellite Operating Corporation (“ESOC”) files this annual report covering its Fixed-Satellite Service (“FSS”) satellite and its progress towards launching a Direct Broadcast Satellite (“DBS”) at the 86.5° W.L. orbital location. ESOC also notes the surrender of its authorizations to launch and operate five satellites in the 17/24 GHz Broadcasting-Satellite Service (“BSS”) band.

I. FSS Satellite Report

ESOC is presently licensed to operate, and is operating, the EchoStar IX satellite at the 121° W.L. orbital location. The EchoStar IX satellite is a hybrid Ku- and Ka-band satellite. Specifically, the satellite has 32 Ku-band transponders operating at approximately 110 watts per channel. ESOC leases the majority of its Ku-band capacity to third parties. Specifically, as of May 31, 2011, about 26 of the Ku-band transponders were leased to third parties (a number that has fluctuated during the year). Additionally, EchoStar IX provides expanded video and audio channels to subscribers of EchoStar’s affiliate, DISH Network Corporation (“DISH Network”), who installs a specially designed dish. The satellite also has two Ka-band transponders operating at approximately 120 watts per channel. The Ka-band spectrum continues to be used to test and

¹ On April 21, 2011, the Commission consented to the *pro forma* assignment of EchoStar Corporation’s authorizations of its FSS, DBS, and 17/24 GHz BSS space station licenses to ESOC. *See* File Nos. SAT-ASG-20110224-00033, SAT-ASG-20110224-00034, SAT-ASG-20110224-00035 (granted Apr. 21, 2011). The *pro forma* assignments were consummated on May 23, 2011. *See* Letter from Pantelis Michalopoulos and L. Lisa Sandoval, Counsel for EchoStar Corporation and EchoStar Satellite Operating Corporation, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, *filed in* File Nos. SAT-ASG-20110224-00033, SAT-ASG-20110224-00034, SAT-ASG-20110224-00035 (May 23, 2011).

verify potential future initiatives. ESOC is making the spectrum available for commercial use and has had discussions with a number of third parties regarding such use. There have been no transponder outages, failures, or anomalies on EchoStar IX.

On March 9, 2009, ESOC's parent company, EchoStar Corporation ("EchoStar"), surrendered its Ka-band authorization at the 97° W.L. orbital location. As required by that authorization, on April 7, 2004, EchoStar had submitted a three million dollar performance bond (subsequently reduced to \$1.5 million dollars), payable to the U.S. Treasury. On May 24, 2011, ESOC and EchoStar withdrew the request for unconditional release of the outstanding bond, and agreed to satisfy the remaining bond obligation once the Commission makes a determination as to whether the commencement of construction milestone has been met.

On September 2, 2009, EchoStar had surrendered its Ka-band authorization for the 113° W.L. orbital location. EchoStar had requested the release of its \$3 million performance bond (later reduced to \$750,000) payable to the U.S. Treasury. ESOC and EchoStar withdrew this request on May 24, 2011, and have since satisfied the bond obligation.

II. 86.5° W.L. DBS Report

ESOC is also providing an annual progress report for its DBS authorization at the 86.5° W.L. orbital location (S2454) pursuant to a condition in that authorization.² ESOC has met the applicable milestone requirements for its 86.5° W.L. DBS authorization. No performance bond was required for this DBS satellite.

Pending before the Commission is an application filed by EchoStar on November 24, 2010 to modify its authority to operate on the DBS spectrum available at the 86.5° W.L. orbital

² See EchoStar Satellite L.L.C., *Order and Authorization*, 21 FCC Rcd. 14045 ¶ 31 (2006).

location by using the EchoStar 8 satellite. EchoStar 8 would utilize the spectrum from that orbital location soon after it is relieved from duty at its current 77° W.L. nominal orbital location by QuetzSat 1, which is scheduled to launch in August of this year. A single event upset experienced by EchoStar 8 in January 2011 required certain alternative measures to provide Telemetry, Tracking and Command communications with the satellite, but did not substantially affect the satellite's ability to provide DBS service. EchoStar has amended its application to update the file with technical information about these matters.

On December 29, 2008, EchoStar filed an application for a minor modification of its authority to update its orbital debris mitigation plan detailing the end-of-life operations for the satellite and to provide a revised transmit antenna pattern reflecting coordination developments between EchoStar and Telesat. This modification was filed in response to Condition (e) of the original *Order and Authorization*³ and Condition (h), which was added to EchoStar's authorization *sua sponte* in the Commission's *Memorandum Opinion and Order*.⁴

III. 17/24 GHz Broadcasting-Satellite Service Satellite Report

ESOC is also providing an annual progress report pursuant to the authority it received to operate 17/24 GHz Broadcasting-Satellite Service ("BSS") satellites at 62.15° W.L.,⁵ 75° W.L.,⁶

³ *Id.* ¶ 28(e).

⁴ EchoStar Satellite Operating Corporation, Spectrum Five, LLC, *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, 23 FCC Rcd. 3,252 ¶ 25(h) (2008).

⁵ See Condition 11 of Stamp Grant, File Nos. SAT-LOA-20070105-00001, SAT-AMD-20080114-00021 (Call Sign S2723) (granted Mar. 13, 2009).

⁶ See Condition 12 of Stamp Grant, File Nos. SAT-LOA-20070105-00003, SAT-AMD-20080114-00022, SAT-AMD-20080213-00045 (Call Sign S2725) (granted Mar. 18, 2009).

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79° W.L.,⁷ 107° W.L.,⁸ and 110.4° W.L.⁹ On May 24, 2011 ESOC surrendered these authorizations.¹⁰ ESOC will satisfy its obligation to the Treasury for these authorizations. The bond amounts for the satellites with Call Signs S2440, S2723, and S2725 have not yet been finalized because the Commission has not completed its review of ESOC's certifications that the Critical Design Review milestones have been satisfied.

June 30, 2011

⁷ See Condition 12 of Stamp Grant, File Nos. SAT-LOA-20020328-00050, SAT-AMD-20050118-00247, SAT-AMD-20080114-00018, SAT-AMD-20080213-00044 (Call Sign S2440) (granted Apr. 20, 2009).

⁸ See Condition 12 of Stamp Grant, File Nos. SAT-LOA-20020328-00052, SAT-AMD-20080114-00020, SAT-AMD-20080213-00043 (Call Sign S2442) (granted July 28, 2009).

⁹ See Condition 12 of Stamp Grant, File Nos. SAT-LOA-20020328-00051, SAT-AMD-20080114-00019, SAT-AMD-20080213-00042 (Call Sign S2441) (granted July 28, 2009).

¹⁰ See Letter from Pantelis Michalopoulos and Christopher Bjornson, Counsel for EchoStar Corporation and EchoStar Satellite Operating Corporation, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC (May 24, 2011).