

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G
Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
Amendment No. 1

EchoStar Communications Corporation

(Name of Issuer)

Class A Common Stock, \$0.01 par value

(Title of Class of Securities)

278762109

(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2004

(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

Rule 13d-1(b)

Rule 13d-1(c)

Rule 13d-1(d)

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CUSIP No. 278762109

13G

1. Name of Reporting Person
I.R.S. Identification No. of above Person

Goldman Sachs Asset Management, L.P.

2. Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group

(a)
(b)

3. SEC Use Only

4. Citizenship or Place of Organization

Delaware

5. Sole Voting Power

Number of

6,858,548

Shares -----
Beneficially 6. Shared Voting Power
Owned by 0
Each -----
Reporting 7. Sole Dispositive Power
Person 9,108,032
With: -----
8. Shared Dispositive Power
0

9. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person
9,108,032

10. Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares
[]

11. Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)
4.2%

12. Type of Reporting Person
IA

- Item 4. Ownership.*
- (a). Amount beneficially owned:
See the response(s) to Item 9 on the attached cover page(s).
 - (b). Percent of Class:
See the response(s) to Item 11 on the attached cover page(s).
 - (c). Number of shares as to which such person has:
 - (i). Sole power to vote or to direct the vote: See the response(s) to Item 5 on the attached cover page(s).
 - (ii). Shared power to vote or to direct the vote: See the response(s) to Item 6 on the attached cover page(s).
 - (iii). Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: See the response(s) to Item 7 on the attached cover page(s).
 - (iv). Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: See the response(s) to Item 8 on the attached cover page(s).

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.
If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check the following [X].

Item 10. Certification.
By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

* In accordance with Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") Release No. 34-39538 (January 12, 1998), this filing reflects the securities beneficially owned by Goldman Sachs Asset Management, L.P. ("GSAM LP"). GSAM LP, an investment advisor, disclaims beneficial ownership of any securities managed, on GSAM LP's behalf, by third parties.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Date: February 9, 2005

GOLDMAN SACHS ASSET MANAGEMENT, L.P.

By: /s/ Ted Chang

Name: Ted Chang
Title: Attorney-in-fact

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