

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-8
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

ECHOSTAR COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

(Exact name of issuer as specified in its charter)

Nevada
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation)

88-0336997
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

9601 S. Meridian Blvd.
Englewood, Colorado 80112
(Address of principal executive offices)

Sling Media, Inc. 2004 Stock Plan
(Full title of Plans)

R. Stanton Dodge
Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary
EchoStar Communications Corporation
9601 S. Meridian Blvd.
Englewood, Colorado 80112
(303) 723-1000
(Name, address and telephone number of agent for service)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Plans/Title of Securities to be Registered(1)	Amount to be Registered(1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share(2)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(2)	Amount of Registration Fee
Class A Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	409,417 shares	\$2.90	\$1,189,177	\$36.51

- (1) 409,417 shares of Class A Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of EchoStar Communications Corporation, a Nevada corporation ("Shares"), are being registered hereunder. Such number of Shares represents the aggregate number of Shares issuable pursuant to the Sling Media, Inc. 2004 Stock Plan (the "Stock Plan"), which is being assumed by EchoStar Communications Corporation (the "Registrant") in connection with the merger of EchoStar Technologies New Media Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Registrant ("Merger Sub"), with and into Sling Media, Inc. (the "Merger") in respect of unvested awards or rights issued under the Stock Plan. The number of Shares subject to outstanding awards or rights under the Stock Plan as of the closing of the Merger has been calculated pursuant to an exchange ratio set forth in the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of September 17, 2007, by and among the Registrant, Merger Sub, Sling Media, Inc. and Katsujin David Chao, as Stockholders' Representative (the "Merger Agreement"). Pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), the amount registered hereunder includes an indeterminate number of Shares that may be issued in accordance with the provisions of the Stock Plan in connection with any anti-dilution provisions or in the event of any change in the outstanding Shares, including a stock dividend or stock split.
- (2) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(c) and (h) of the Securities Act, based upon the weighted average exercise price per share (\$2.90) with respect to outstanding awards under the Stock Plan.

PART I
INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

Item 1. Plan Information

Not required to be filed with this Registration Statement.

Item 2. Registrant Information and Employee Plan Annual Information

Not required to be filed with this Registration Statement.

PART II
INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference

The following documents, which have heretofore been filed by the Registrant with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), are incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement:

- (a) The Registrant’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for its fiscal year ended December 31, 2006;
- (b) The Registrant’s Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2007 and June 30, 2007;
- (c) The Registrant’s Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 16, 2007, February 15, 2007, June 4, 2007 and September 25, 2007;
- (d) The Registrant’s Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed with the SEC on April 5, 2007; and
- (e) The description of the Registrant’s Class A Common Stock contained in the Registrant’s Registration Statement on Form 8-A, declared effective June 20, 1995 by the SEC, pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act.

All documents subsequently filed by the Registrant pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this Registration Statement on Form S-8 and prior to such time as the Registrant files a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement on Form S-8 that indicates that all securities offered hereby have been sold, or which deregisters all such securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference herein and to be a part hereof from the date of filing such reports and documents.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained in any subsequently-filed document that also is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement.

Item 4. Description of Securities

Not applicable.

Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel

The validity of the securities being registered hereunder is being passed upon for the Registrant by R. Stanton Dodge. As of October 9, 2007, Mr. Dodge owned, directly and indirectly, 50,765 shares of Class A

Common Stock which includes the right to acquire 48,440 additional shares of the Registrant's Class A Common Stock within 60 days of October 9, 2007.

The consolidated financial statements of the Registrant appearing in the Registrant's Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2006, and the Registrant's management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006 included therein, have been audited by KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. The audit report covering the December 31, 2006 consolidated financial statements refers to the adoption of Securities and Exchange Staff Commission Staff Accounting Bulletin (SAB) No. 108, *Considering the Effects of Prior Year Misstatements when Quantifying Misstatements in the Current Year Financial Statements*, and to the adoption of Statement of Financial Standards No. 123 R, *Share-Based Payment*. Such consolidated financial statements and management's assessment are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

Chapter 78.7502(1) of the Nevada Revised Statutes allows the Registrant to indemnify any person made or threatened to be made a party to any action (except an action by or in the right of the Registrant, a "derivative action"), by reason of the fact that he is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the Registrant, or is or was serving at the request of the Registrant as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, against expenses including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the action, suit or proceeding if he acted in a good faith manner which he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Registrant, and, with respect to any criminal proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that his conduct was unlawful. Under chapter 78.7502(2), a similar standard of care applies to derivative actions, except that indemnification is limited solely to expenses (including attorneys' fees) incurred in connection with the defense or settlement of the action and court approval of the indemnification is required where the person is seeking advance payment of indemnifiable expenses prior to final disposition of the proceeding in question. Under chapter 78.751, decisions as to the payment of indemnification are made by a majority of the Board of Directors at a meeting at which quorum of disinterested director is present, or by written opinion of special legal counsel, or by the stockholders.

Provisions relating to liability and indemnification of officers and directors of the Registrant for acts by such officers and directors are contained in Article IX of the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant, Exhibit 4.1 hereto, and Article IX of the Registrant's Bylaws, Exhibit 4.2 hereto, which are incorporated by reference. These provisions state, among other things, that, consistent with and to the extent allowable under Nevada law, and upon the decision of a disinterested majority of the Registrant's Board of Directors, or a written opinion of outside legal counsel, or the Registrant's stockholders: (1) the Registrant shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative and whether formal or informal (other than an action by or in the right of the Registrant) by reason of the fact that he is or was a director, officer, employee, fiduciary or agent of the Registrant, or is or was serving at the request of the Registrant as a director, employee, fiduciary or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with such action, suit or proceeding, if he conducted himself in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Registrant, and with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful; and (2) the Registrant shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the Registrant to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that he is or was a director, officer, employee, fiduciary or agent of the Registrant, or is or was serving at the request of the Registrant as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit if he acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Registrant and except that no indemnification shall be made in respect to any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have adjudged to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of his duty to the Registrant unless and only to the extent that the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine upon application that despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which such court shall deem proper.

Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed

Not applicable.

Item 8. Exhibits

See Index to Exhibits on page 7.

Item 9. Undertakings

(a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the Registration Statement or any material change to such information in the Registration Statement;

provided, however, that:

paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) of this section do not apply if the Registration Statement is on Form S-8, and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by these paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement;

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered that remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(b) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's Annual Report pursuant to section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in the

registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

- (c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Englewood, State of Colorado, on October 26, 2007.

ECHOSTAR COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

By /s/ R. Stanton Dodge
Name: R. Stanton Dodge
Title: Executive Vice President, General
Counsel and Secretary

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints R. Stanton Dodge as the true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent of the undersigned, with full power of substitution and re-substitution, for and in the name, place and stead of the undersigned, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including without limitation, post-effective amendments) or supplements thereto and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and hereby grants unto the attorney-in-fact and agent full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in connection therewith as fully as to all intents and purposes as the undersigned might or could do in person, thereby ratifying and confirming all that the attorney-in-fact and agent, or his substitute, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the date indicated.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ Charles W. Ergen</u> Charles W. Ergen	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)	October 26, 2007
<u>/s/ Bernard L. Han</u> Bernard L. Han	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)	October 26, 2007
<u>/s/ Carl E. Vogel</u> Carl E. Vogel	Director, President and Vice Chairman	October 26, 2007
<u>/s/ James DeFranco</u> James DeFranco	Director and Executive Vice President	October 26, 2007
<u>/s/ David K. Moskowitz</u> David K. Moskowitz	Director and Senior Advisor	October 26, 2007
<u>/s/ Michael T. Dugan</u> Michael T. Dugan	Director and Senior Advisor	October 26, 2007
<u>/s/ Cantey Ergen</u> Cantey Ergen	Director	October 26, 2007
<u>/s/ Steven R. Goodbarn</u> Steven R. Goodbarn	Director	October 26, 2007
<u>/s/ Gary S. Howard</u> Gary S. Howard	Director	October 26, 2007
<u>/s/ Tom A. Ortolf</u> Tom A. Ortolf	Director	October 26, 2007
<u>/s/ C. Michael Schroeder</u> C. Michael Schroeder	Director	October 26, 2007

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Exhibit Number	Description
4.1	Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1(a) on the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of the Registrant for the quarter ended June 30, 2003, Commission File No. 0-26176).
4.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Registrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 on the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of the Registrant for the quarter ended March 31, 2007, Commission File No. 0-26176).
4.3	Sling Media, Inc. 2004 Stock Plan*
5.1	Opinion of R. Stanton Dodge (opinion re: legality)*
23.1	Consent of R. Stanton Dodge (included in Exhibit 5.1 hereto)*
23.2	Consent of KPMG LLP*
24	Power of Attorney (set forth on the signature page of this Registration Statement)*

* Filed herewith.

SLING MEDIA, INC.
2004 STOCK PLAN
ADOPTED ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2004
(AS AMENDED ON OCTOBER 7, 2004 AND JANUARY 22, 2006)

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SLING MEDIA, INC. 2004 STOCK PLAN

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.

The purpose of the Plan is to offer selected persons an opportunity to acquire a proprietary interest in the success of the Company, or to increase such interest, by purchasing Shares of the Company's Stock. The Plan provides both for the direct award or sale of Shares and for the grant of Options to purchase Shares. Options granted under the Plan may include Nonstatutory Options as well as ISOs intended to qualify under Section 422 of the Code.

Capitalized terms are defined in Section 12.

SECTION 2. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **Committees of the Board of Directors.** The Plan may be administered by one or more Committees. Each Committee shall consist of one or more members of the Board of Directors who have been appointed by the Board of Directors. Each Committee shall have such authority and be responsible for such functions as the Board of Directors has assigned to it. If no Committee has been appointed, the entire Board of Directors shall administer the Plan. Any reference to the Board of Directors in the Plan shall be construed as a reference to the Committee (if any) to whom the Board of Directors has assigned a particular function.

(b) **Authority of the Board of Directors.** Subject to the provisions of the Plan, the Board of Directors shall have full authority and discretion to take any actions it deems necessary or advisable for the administration of the Plan. All decisions, interpretations and other actions of the Board of Directors shall be final and binding on all Purchasers, all Optionees and all persons deriving their rights from a Purchaser or Optionee.

SECTION 3. ELIGIBILITY.

(a) **General Rule.** Only Employees, Outside Directors and Consultants shall be eligible for the grant of Nonstatutory Options or the direct award or sale of Shares. Only Employees shall be eligible for the grant of ISOs.

(b) **Ten-Percent Stockholders.** A person who owns more than 10% of the total combined voting power of all classes of outstanding stock of the Company, its Parent or any of its Subsidiaries shall not be eligible for designation as an Optionee or Purchaser unless (i) the Exercise Price is at least 110% of the Fair Market Value of a Share on the date of grant, (ii) the Purchase Price (if any) is at least 100% of the Fair Market Value of a Share and (iii) in the case of an ISO, such ISO by its terms is not exercisable after the expiration of five years from the date of grant. For purposes of this Subsection (b), in determining stock ownership, the attribution rules of Section 424(d) of the Code shall be applied.

SECTION 4. STOCK SUBJECT TO PLAN.

(a) **Basic Limitation.** Not more than 4,017,080¹ Shares may be issued under the Plan (subject to Subsection (b) below and Section 8(a)). The number of Shares that are subject to Options or other rights outstanding at any time under the Plan shall not exceed the number of Shares that then remain available for issuance under the Plan. The Company, during the term of the Plan, shall at all times reserve and keep available sufficient Shares to satisfy the requirements of the Plan. Shares offered under the Plan may be authorized but unissued Shares or treasury Shares.

(b) **Additional Shares.** In the event that Shares previously issued under the Plan are reacquired by the Company, such Shares shall be added to the number of Shares then available for issuance under the Plan. In the event that an outstanding Option or other right for any reason expires or is canceled, the Shares allocable to the unexercised portion of such Option or other right shall be added to the number of Shares then available for issuance under the Plan.

SECTION 5. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AWARDS OR SALES.

(a) **Stock Purchase Agreement.** Each award or sale of Shares under the Plan (other than upon exercise of an Option) shall be evidenced by a Stock Purchase Agreement between the Purchaser and the Company. Such award or sale shall be subject to all applicable terms and conditions of the Plan and may be subject to any other terms and conditions which are not inconsistent with the Plan and which the Board of Directors deems appropriate for inclusion in a Stock Purchase Agreement. The provisions of the various Stock Purchase Agreements entered into under the Plan need not be identical.

(b) **Duration of Offers and Nontransferability of Rights.** Any right to acquire Shares under the Plan (other than an Option) shall automatically expire if not exercised by the Purchaser within 30 days after the grant of such right was communicated to the Purchaser by the Company. Such right shall not be transferable and shall be exercisable only by the Purchaser to whom such right was granted.

(c) **Purchase Price.** The Purchase Price of Shares to be offered under the Plan shall not be less than 85% of the Fair Market Value of such Shares, and a higher percentage may be required by Section 3(b). Subject to the preceding sentence, the Board of Directors shall determine the Purchase Price at its sole discretion. The Purchase Price shall be payable in a form described in Section 7.

(d) **Withholding Taxes.** As a condition to the purchase of Shares, the Purchaser shall make such arrangements as the Board of Directors may require for the satisfaction of any federal, state, local or foreign withholding tax obligations that may arise in connection with such purchase.

¹ Reflects the 727,500 share increase approved by the Board of Directors on October 7, 2004 and the 799,580 share increase approved by the Board of Directors on January 22, 2006.

(e) **Restrictions on Transfer of Shares and Minimum Vesting.** Any Shares awarded or sold under the Plan shall be subject to such special forfeiture conditions, rights of repurchase, rights of first refusal and other transfer restrictions as the Board of Directors may determine. Such restrictions shall be set forth in the applicable Stock Purchase Agreement and shall apply in addition to any restrictions that may apply to holders of Shares generally. In the case of a Purchaser who is not an officer of the Company, an Outside Director or a Consultant:

- (i) Any right to repurchase the Purchaser's Shares at the original Purchase Price (if any) upon termination of the Purchaser's Service shall lapse at least as rapidly as 20% per year over the five-year period commencing on the date of the award or sale of the Shares;
- (ii) Any such right may be exercised only for cash or for cancellation of indebtedness incurred in purchasing the Shares; and
- (iii) Any such right may be exercised only within 90 days after the termination of the Purchaser's Service.

SECTION 6. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF OPTIONS.

(a) **Stock Option Agreement.** Each grant of an Option under the Plan shall be evidenced by a Stock Option Agreement between the Optionee and the Company. The Option shall be subject to all applicable terms and conditions of the Plan and may be subject to any other terms and conditions which are not inconsistent with the Plan and which the Board of Directors deems appropriate for inclusion in a Stock Option Agreement. The provisions of the various Stock Option Agreements entered into under the Plan need not be identical.

(b) **Number of Shares.** Each Stock Option Agreement shall specify the number of Shares that are subject to the Option and shall provide for the adjustment of such number in accordance with Section 8. The Stock Option Agreement shall also specify whether the Option is an ISO or a Nonstatutory Option.

(c) **Exercise Price.** Each Stock Option Agreement shall specify the Exercise Price. The Exercise Price of an ISO shall not be less than 100% of the Fair Market Value of a Share on the date of grant, and a higher percentage may be required by Section 3(b). The Exercise Price of a Nonstatutory Option shall not be less than 85% of the Fair Market Value of a Share on the date of grant, and a higher percentage may be required by Section 3(b). Subject to the preceding two sentences, the Exercise Price under any Option shall be determined by the Board of Directors at its sole discretion. The Exercise Price shall be payable in a form described in Section 7.

(d) **Exercisability.** Each Stock Option Agreement shall specify the date when all or any installment of the Option is to become exercisable. No Option shall be exercisable unless the Optionee has delivered an executed copy of the Stock Option Agreement to the Company. In the case of an Optionee who is not an officer of the Company, an Outside Director or a Consultant, an Option shall become exercisable at least as rapidly as 20% per year over the five-year period commencing on the date of grant. Subject to the preceding sentence, the Board

of Directors shall determine the exercisability provisions of the Stock Option Agreement at its sole discretion. All of an Optionee's Options shall become exercisable in full if Section 8(b)(iv) applies.

(e) **Basic Term.** The Stock Option Agreement shall specify the term of the Option. The term shall not exceed 10 years from the date of grant, and a shorter term may be required by Section 3(b). Subject to the preceding sentence, the Board of Directors at its sole discretion shall determine when an Option is to expire.

(f) **Termination of Service (Except by Death).** If an Optionee's Service terminates for any reason other than the Optionee's death, then the Optionee's Options shall expire on the earliest of the following occasions:

(i) The expiration date determined pursuant to Subsection (e) above;

(ii) The date three months after the termination of the Optionee's Service for any reason other than Disability, or such later date as the Board of Directors may determine; or

(iii) The date six months after the termination of the Optionee's Service by reason of Disability, or such later date as the Board of Directors may determine.

The Optionee may exercise all or part of the Optionee's Options at any time before the expiration of such Options under the preceding sentence, but only to the extent that such Options had become exercisable before the Optionee's Service terminated (or became exercisable as a result of the termination) and the underlying Shares had vested before the Optionee's Service terminated (or vested as a result of the termination). The balance of such Options shall lapse when the Optionee's Service terminates. In the event that the Optionee dies after the termination of the Optionee's Service but before the expiration of the Optionee's Options, all or part of such Options may be exercised (prior to expiration) by the executors or administrators of the Optionee's estate or by any person who has acquired such Options directly from the Optionee by beneficiary designation, bequest or inheritance, but only to the extent that such Options had become exercisable before the Optionee's Service terminated (or became exercisable as a result of the termination) and the underlying Shares had vested before the Optionee's Service terminated (or vested as a result of the termination).

(g) **Leaves of Absence.** For purposes of Subsection (f) above, Service shall be deemed to continue while the Optionee is on a bona fide leave of absence, if such leave was approved by the Company in writing and if continued crediting of Service for this purpose is expressly required by the terms of such leave or by applicable law (as determined by the Company).

(h) **Death of Optionee.** If an Optionee dies while the Optionee is in Service, then the Optionee's Options shall expire on the earlier of the following dates:

(i) The expiration date determined pursuant to Subsection (e) above; or

(ii) The date 12 months after the Optionee's death, or such later date as the Board of Directors may determine.

All or part of the Optionee's Options may be exercised at any time before the expiration of such Options under the preceding sentence by the executors or administrators of the Optionee's estate or by any person who has acquired such Options directly from the Optionee by beneficiary designation, bequest or inheritance, but only to the extent that such Options had become exercisable before the Optionee's death (or became exercisable as a result of the death) and the underlying Shares had vested before the Optionee's death (or vested as a result of the Optionee's death). The balance of such Options shall lapse when the Optionee dies.

(i) **Restrictions on Transfer of Shares and Minimum Vesting.** Any Shares issued upon exercise of an Option shall be subject to such special forfeiture conditions, rights of repurchase, rights of first refusal and other transfer restrictions as the Board of Directors may determine. Such restrictions shall be set forth in the applicable Stock Option Agreement and shall apply in addition to any restrictions that may apply to holders of Shares generally. In the case of an Optionee who is not an officer of the Company, an Outside Director or a Consultant:

(i) Any right to repurchase the Optionee's Shares at the original Exercise Price upon termination of the Optionee's Service shall lapse at least as rapidly as 20% per year over the five-year period commencing on the date of the option grant;

(ii) Any such right may be exercised only for cash or for cancellation of indebtedness incurred in purchasing the Shares; and

(iii) Any such right may be exercised only within 90 days after the later of (A) the termination of the Optionee's Service or (B) the date of the option exercise.

(j) **Transferability of Options.** An Option shall be transferable by the Optionee only by (i) a beneficiary designation, (ii) a will or (iii) the laws of descent and distribution, except as provided in the next sentence. If the applicable Stock Option Agreement so provides, a Nonstatutory Option shall also be transferable by gift or domestic relations order to a Family Member of the Optionee. An ISO may be exercised during the lifetime of the Optionee only by the Optionee or by the Optionee's guardian or legal representative.

(k) **Withholding Taxes.** As a condition to the exercise of an Option, the Optionee shall make such arrangements as the Board of Directors may require for the satisfaction of any federal, state, local or foreign withholding tax obligations that may arise in connection with such exercise. The Optionee shall also make such arrangements as the Board of Directors may require for the satisfaction of any federal, state, local or foreign withholding tax obligations that may arise in connection with the disposition of Shares acquired by exercising an Option.

(l) **No Rights as a Stockholder.** An Optionee, or a transferee of an Optionee, shall have no rights as a stockholder with respect to any Shares covered by the Optionee's Option until such person becomes entitled to receive such Shares by filing a notice of exercise and paying the Exercise Price pursuant to the terms of such Option.

(m) **Modification, Extension and Assumption of Options.** Within the limitations of the Plan, the Board of Directors may modify, extend or assume outstanding Options or may accept the cancellation of outstanding Options (whether granted by the Company or another issuer) in return for the grant of new Options for the same or a different number of Shares and at the same or a different Exercise Price. The foregoing notwithstanding, no modification of an Option shall, without the consent of the Optionee, impair the Optionee's rights or increase the Optionee's obligations under such Option.

SECTION 7. PAYMENT FOR SHARES.

(a) **General Rule.** The entire Purchase Price or Exercise Price of Shares issued under the Plan shall be payable in cash or cash equivalents at the time when such Shares are purchased, except as otherwise provided in this Section 7.

(b) **Surrender of Stock.** At the discretion of the Board of Directors, all or any part of the Exercise Price may be paid by surrendering, or attesting to the ownership of, Shares that are already owned by the Optionee. Such Shares shall be surrendered to the Company in good form for transfer and shall be valued at their Fair Market Value on the date when the Option is exercised. The Optionee shall not surrender, or attest to the ownership of, Shares in payment of the Exercise Price if such action would cause the Company to recognize compensation expense (or additional compensation expense) with respect to the Option for financial reporting purposes.

(c) **Services Rendered.** At the discretion of the Board of Directors, Shares may be awarded under the Plan in consideration of services rendered to the Company, a Parent or a Subsidiary prior to the award.

(d) **Promissory Note.** At the discretion of the Board of Directors, all or a portion of the Exercise Price or Purchase Price (as the case may be) of Shares issued under the Plan may be paid with a full-recourse promissory note. However, the par value of the Shares, if newly issued, shall be paid in cash or cash equivalents. The Shares shall be pledged as security for payment of the principal amount of the promissory note and interest thereon. The interest rate payable under the terms of the promissory note shall not be less than the minimum rate (if any) required to avoid the imputation of additional interest under the Code. Subject to the foregoing, the Board of Directors (at its sole discretion) shall specify the term, interest rate, amortization requirements (if any) and other provisions of such note.

(e) **Exercise/Sale.** To the extent that a Stock Option Agreement so provides, and if Stock is publicly traded, payment may be made all or in part by the delivery (on a form prescribed by the Company) of an irrevocable direction to a securities broker approved by the Company to sell Shares and to deliver all or part of the sales proceeds to the Company in payment of all or part of the Exercise Price and any withholding taxes.

(f) **Exercise/Pledge.** To the extent that a Stock Option Agreement so provides, and if Stock is publicly traded, payment may be made all or in part by the delivery (on a form prescribed by the Company) of an irrevocable direction to pledge Shares to a securities broker or lender approved by the Company, as security for a loan, and to deliver all or part of the loan proceeds to the Company in payment of all or part of the Exercise Price and any withholding taxes.

SECTION 8. ADJUSTMENT OF SHARES.

(a) **General.** In the event of a subdivision of the outstanding Stock, a declaration of a dividend payable in Shares or a combination or consolidation of the outstanding Stock into a lesser number of Shares, corresponding adjustments shall automatically be made in each of (i) the number of Shares available for future grants under Section 4, (ii) the number of Shares covered by each outstanding Option and (iii) the Exercise Price under each outstanding Option. In the event of a declaration of an extraordinary dividend payable in a form other than Shares in an amount that has a material effect on the Fair Market Value of the Stock, a recapitalization, a spin-off, a reclassification or a similar occurrence, the Board of Directors at its sole discretion may make appropriate adjustments in one or more of (i) the number of Shares available for future grants under Section 4, (ii) the number of Shares covered by each outstanding Option or (iii) the Exercise Price under each outstanding Option.

(b) **Mergers and Consolidations.** In the event that the Company is a party to a merger or consolidation, all outstanding Options shall be subject to the agreement of merger or consolidation. Such agreement shall provide for one or more of the following:

(i) The continuation of such outstanding Options by the Company (if the Company is the surviving corporation).

(ii) The assumption of such outstanding Options by the surviving corporation or its parent in a manner that complies with Section 424(a) of the Code (whether or not such Options are ISOs).

(iii) The substitution by the surviving corporation or its parent of new options for such outstanding Options in a manner that complies with Section 424(a) of the Code (whether or not such Options are ISOs).

(iv) Full exercisability of such outstanding Options and full vesting of the Shares subject to such Options, followed by the cancellation of such Options. The full exercisability of such Options and full vesting of the Shares subject to such Options may be contingent on the closing of such merger or consolidation. The Optionees shall be able to exercise such Options during a period of not less than five full business days preceding the closing date of such merger or consolidation, unless (A) a shorter period is required to permit a timely closing of such merger or consolidation and (B) such shorter period still offers the Optionees a reasonable opportunity to exercise such Options. Any exercise of such Options during such period may be contingent on the closing of such merger or consolidation.

(v) The cancellation of such outstanding Options and a payment to the Optionees equal to the excess of (A) the Fair Market Value of the Shares subject to such Options (whether or not such Options are then exercisable or such Shares are then vested) as of the closing date of such merger or consolidation over (B) their Exercise Price. Such payment shall be made in the form of cash, cash equivalents, or securities of the surviving corporation or its parent with a Fair Market Value equal to the required amount. Such payment may be made in installments and may be deferred until the date or dates when such Options would have become exercisable or such Shares would have vested. Such payment may be subject to vesting based on the Optionee's continuing Service, provided that the vesting schedule shall not be less favorable to the Optionee than the schedule under which such Options would have become exercisable or such Shares would have vested. If the Exercise Price of the Shares subject to such Options exceeds the Fair Market Value of such Shares, then such Options may be cancelled without making a payment to the Optionees. For purposes of this Paragraph (v), the Fair Market Value of any security shall be determined without regard to any vesting conditions that may apply to such security.

(c) **Reservation of Rights.** Except as provided in this Section 8, an Optionee or Purchaser shall have no rights by reason of (i) any subdivision or consolidation of shares of stock of any class, (ii) the payment of any dividend or (iii) any other increase or decrease in the number of shares of stock of any class. Any issuance by the Company of shares of stock of any class, or securities convertible into shares of stock of any class, shall not affect, and no adjustment by reason thereof shall be made with respect to, the number or Exercise Price of Shares subject to an Option. The grant of an Option pursuant to the Plan shall not affect in any way the right or power of the Company to make adjustments, reclassifications, reorganizations or changes of its capital or business structure, to merge or consolidate or to dissolve, liquidate, sell or transfer all or any part of its business or assets.

SECTION 9. SECURITIES LAW REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **General.** Shares shall not be issued under the Plan unless the issuance and delivery of such Shares comply with (or are exempt from) all applicable requirements of law, including (without limitation) the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, state securities laws and regulations, and the regulations of any stock exchange or other securities market on which the Company's securities may then be traded.

(b) **Financial Reports.** The Company each year shall furnish to Optionees, Purchasers and stockholders who have received Stock under the Plan its balance sheet and income statement, unless such Optionees, Purchasers or stockholders are key Employees whose duties with the Company assure them access to equivalent information. Such balance sheet and income statement need not be audited.

SECTION 10. NO RETENTION RIGHTS.

Nothing in the Plan or in any right or Option granted under the Plan shall confer upon the Purchaser or Optionee any right to continue in Service for any period of specific duration or interfere with or otherwise restrict in any way the rights of the Company (or any Parent or Subsidiary employing or retaining the Purchaser or Optionee) or of the Purchaser or Optionee, which rights are hereby expressly reserved by each, to terminate his or her Service at any time and for any reason, with or without cause.

SECTION 11. DURATION AND AMENDMENTS.

(a) **Term of the Plan.** The Plan, as set forth herein, shall become effective on the date of its adoption by the Board of Directors, subject to the approval of the Company's stockholders. If the stockholders fail to approve the Plan within 12 months after its adoption by the Board of Directors, then any grants, exercises or sales that have already occurred under the Plan shall be rescinded and no additional grants, exercises or sales shall thereafter be made under the Plan. The Plan shall terminate automatically 10 years after the later of (i) its adoption by the Board of Directors or (ii) the most recent increase in the number of Shares reserved under Section 4 that was approved by the Company's stockholders. The Plan may be terminated on any earlier date pursuant to Subsection (b) below.

(b) **Right to Amend or Terminate the Plan.** The Board of Directors may amend, suspend or terminate the Plan at any time and for any reason; provided, however, that any amendment of the Plan shall be subject to the approval of the Company's stockholders if it (i) increases the number of Shares available for issuance under the Plan (except as provided in Section 8) or (ii) materially changes the class of persons who are eligible for the grant of ISOs. Stockholder approval shall not be required for any other amendment of the Plan. If the stockholders fail to approve an increase in the number of Shares reserved under Section 4 within 12 months after its adoption by the Board of Directors, then any grants, exercises or sales that have already occurred in reliance on such increase shall be rescinded and no additional grants, exercises or sales shall thereafter be made in reliance on such increase.

(c) **Effect of Amendment or Termination.** No Shares shall be issued or sold under the Plan after the termination thereof, except upon exercise of an Option granted prior to such termination. The termination of the Plan, or any amendment thereof, shall not affect any Share previously issued or any Option previously granted under the Plan.

SECTION 12. DEFINITIONS.

- (a) **"Board of Directors"** shall mean the Board of Directors of the Company, as constituted from time to time.
- (b) **"Code"** shall mean the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.
- (c) **"Committee"** shall mean a committee of the Board of Directors, as described in Section 2(a).

(d) “**Company**” shall mean Sling Media, Inc., a Delaware corporation.

(e) “**Consultant**” shall mean a person who performs bona fide services for the Company, a Parent or a Subsidiary as a consultant or advisor, excluding Employees and Outside Directors.

(f) “**Disability**” shall mean that the Optionee is unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment.

(g) “**Employee**” shall mean any individual who is a common-law employee of the Company, a Parent or a Subsidiary.

(h) “**Exercise Price**” shall mean the amount for which one Share may be purchased upon exercise of an Option, as specified by the Board of Directors in the applicable Stock Option Agreement.

(i) “**Fair Market Value**” shall mean the fair market value of a Share, as determined by the Board of Directors in good faith. Such determination shall be conclusive and binding on all persons.

(j) “**Family Member**” shall mean (i) any child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, stepparent, grandparent, spouse, former spouse, sibling, niece, nephew, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law or sister-in-law, including adoptive relationships, (ii) any person sharing the Optionee’s household (other than a tenant or employee), (iii) a trust in which persons described in Clause (i) or (ii) have more than 50% of the beneficial interest, (iv) a foundation in which persons described in Clause (i) or (ii) or the Optionee control the management of assets and (v) any other entity in which persons described in Clause (i) or (ii) or the Optionee own more than 50% of the voting interests.

(k) “**ISO**” shall mean an employee incentive stock option described in Section 422(b) of the Code.

(l) “**Nonstatutory Option**” shall mean a stock option not described in Sections 422(b) or 423(b) of the Code.

(m) “**Option**” shall mean an ISO or Nonstatutory Option granted under the Plan and entitling the holder to purchase Shares.

(n) “**Optionee**” shall mean a person who holds an Option.

(o) “**Outside Director**” shall mean a member of the Board of Directors who is not an Employee.

(p) “**Parent**” shall mean any corporation (other than the Company) in an unbroken chain of corporations ending with the Company, if each of the corporations other than the Company owns stock possessing 50% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock in one of the other corporations in such chain. A corporation that attains the

status of a Parent on a date after the adoption of the Plan shall be considered a Parent commencing as of such date.

(q) “**Plan**” shall mean this Sling Media, Inc. 2004 Stock Plan.

(r) “**Purchase Price**” shall mean the consideration for which one Share may be acquired under the Plan (other than upon exercise of an Option), as specified by the Board of Directors.

(s) “**Purchaser**” shall mean a person to whom the Board of Directors has offered the right to acquire Shares under the Plan (other than upon exercise of an Option).

(t) “**Service**” shall mean service as an Employee, Outside Director or Consultant.

(u) “**Share**” shall mean one share of Stock, as adjusted in accordance with Section 8 (if applicable).

(v) “**Stock**” shall mean the Common Stock of the Company, with a par value of \$0.0001 per Share.

(w) “**Stock Option Agreement**” shall mean the agreement between the Company and an Optionee that contains the terms, conditions and restrictions pertaining to the Optionee’s Option.

(x) “**Stock Purchase Agreement**” shall mean the agreement between the Company and a Purchaser who acquires Shares under the Plan that contains the terms, conditions and restrictions pertaining to the acquisition of such Shares.

(y) “**Subsidiary**” shall mean any corporation (other than the Company) in an unbroken chain of corporations beginning with the Company, if each of the corporations other than the last corporation in the unbroken chain owns stock possessing 50% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock in one of the other corporations in such chain. A corporation that attains the status of a Subsidiary on a date after the adoption of the Plan shall be considered a Subsidiary commencing as of such date.

October 26, 2007

EchoStar Communications Corporation
9601 S. Meridian Blvd.
Englewood, CO 80112

Re: Registration Statement on Form S-8 (the "Registration Statement")

Gentlemen:

I am Executive Vice President, Corporate Secretary and General Counsel of EchoStar Communications Corporation, a Nevada corporation formed in April 1995 (the "Company"), and have acted as such in connection with the authorization to issue up to: 409,417 shares of the Company's Class A Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "Common Shares"), issued under the Sling Media, Inc. 2004 Stock Plan (the "Plan").

I have reviewed originals, or copies certified or otherwise identified to my satisfaction as copies of originals, of the various proceedings taken by the Company to effect such authorizations, and have examined such other agreements, instruments, documents and corporate records of the Company as I have deemed necessary or appropriate as a basis for the opinion hereinafter expressed.

Based upon the foregoing and having regard for such legal considerations as I deem relevant, I am of the opinion that the Common Shares of the Company issuable pursuant to the Plan have been duly authorized for issuance and will be legally issued, fully paid and non-assessable when issued as provided in the Plan.

I am admitted to practice only in the State of Colorado and do not purport to be an expert on the laws of any other jurisdiction other than the laws of the State of Colorado and Federal law.

I consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement relating to the Plan.

Very truly yours,

ECHOSTAR COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

/s/ R. Stanton Dodge

R. Stanton Dodge
Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors
EchoStar Communications Corporation:

We consent to incorporation by reference in the registration statement on Form S-8 of EchoStar Communications Corporation of our reports dated February 28, 2007, with respect to the consolidated balance sheets of EchoStar Communications Corporation and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, and the related consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss), changes in stockholders' equity (deficit), and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2006, management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006, and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006, which reports appear in the December 31, 2006 annual report on Form 10-K of EchoStar Communications Corporation, and to the reference to our firm under the heading "Interests of Named Experts and Counsel" in the registration statement.

Our report refers to the adoption of Securities and Exchange Staff Commission Staff Accounting Bulletin (SAB) No. 108, *Considering the Effects of Prior Year Misstatements when Quantifying Misstatements in the Current Year Financial Statements*, and to the adoption of Statement of Financial Standards No. 123 R, *Share-Based Payment*.

KPMG LLP

/s/ KPMG LLP

Denver, Colorado
October 26, 2007