

FORM 4

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,
Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or
Section 30(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

[X] Check box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations
may continue. See Instruction 1(b).*

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person**

Vivendi Universal, S.A.

(Last) (First) (Middle)

42, Avenue de Friedland

(Street)

75380 Paris Cedex 80 France

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

EchoStar Communications Corporation (NASDAQ: DISH, Pink Sheets: DISHP)

3. IRS Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an Entity (Voluntary)

4. Statement for Month/Year

December, 2002

5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)

January, 2002

6. Relationship of Reporting Person to Issuer
(Check all applicable)

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)

7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check applicable line)

Form filed by one Reporting Person
 Form filed by more than one Reporting Person

Table I -- Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of,
or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (mm/dd/yy)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) ----- Code V	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Owner- ship Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr.4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Amount	Price			

* Applicable to Vivendi Universal, S.A., Groupe Canal + and Financiere de Videocommunication.

** If the Form is filed by more than one Reporting Person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

(Print or Type Response)

(Over)

FORM 4 (continued)

Table II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conver- sion or Exer- cise Price of Deriv- ative Secur- ity	3. Trans- action Date (Month/ Day/ Year)	4. Trans- action Code (Instr. 8) ----- Code V	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of(D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) ----- (A) (D)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) ----- Date Expira- tion Date	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) ----- Amount or Number of Shares	8. Price of Deriv- ative Secur- ity (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Deriv- ative Secur- ities Bene- ficially Owned at End Month (Instr. 4)	10. Owner- ship Form of Deriv- ative Secur- ity: Direct (D) or In- direct (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of In- direct Benef- icial Owner- ship (Instr. 4)
Series D Mandatorily Convertible Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	(1)	12/23/02	J(2)	5,760,479	(1) (1)	Class A Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	57,604,790 (3)	0		

Explanation of Responses:

(1) Each of the 4,760,479 shares of Series D mandatorily convertible participating preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "Preferred Stock"), of EchoStar Communications Corporation, a Nevada corporation (the "Company") is convertible into 10 shares of Class A common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "Common Stock") of the Company upon the election of the holder that is the owner of record upon the date of such election. In the event that none of the holders elect to convert shares of Preferred Stock in the manner described above, each share of Preferred Stock will mandatorily convert into 10 shares of Common Stock upon the earliest to occur of: (i) the effective time of the merger contemplated by the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of October 28, 2001, by and between the Company and Hughes Electronics Corporation, (ii) Vivendi Universal or its subsidiaries cease to own Preferred Stock or Common Stock representing, on a fully converted basis, 51% or more of the total

shares of Common Stock underlying the Preferred Stock issued on January 22, 2002 to Financiere De Videocommunication, a societe anonyme organized under the laws of France ("Financiere") and wholly owned subsidiary of Groupe Canal+, a societe anonyme organized under the laws of France and wholly owned subsidiary of Vivendi Universal, (iii) the purported sale, assignment, transfer or other disposition of such share of Preferred Stock or beneficial ownership thereof to any person other than Vivendi Universal or any direct or indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Vivendi Universal, or (iv) January 22, 2007.

(2) Financiere, on behalf of and for the sole benefit of Vivendi Universal, sold to the Company 5,760,479 shares of Preferred Stock, which, upon transfer, mandatorily converted into 57,604,790 shares of Common Stock.

(3) On the terms described in Notes (1) and (2), the Preferred Stock was sold at an aggregate purchase price of \$1,065,688,615, representing a purchase price per share of Common Stock, in cash, of \$18.50.

/s/ George E. Bushnell III, Vice President

December 23, 2002

***Signature of Reporting Person

Date

*** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations.

See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.

