



SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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FORM 8-K  
CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): December 31, 2002

**ECHOSTAR COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

NEVADA  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

0-26176  
(Commission  
File Number)

88-0336997  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

5701 S. SANTA FE DRIVE  
LITTLETON, COLORADO  
(Address of principal executive offices)

80120  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

(303) 723-1000

**ECHOSTAR DBS CORPORATION**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

COLORADO  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

333-31929  
(Commission  
File Number)

84-1328967  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

5701 S. SANTA FE DRIVE  
LITTLETON, COLORADO  
(Address of principal executive offices)

80120  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

(303) 723-1000

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## ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS

On December 31, 2002, EchoStar Communications Corporation announced that its subsidiary, EchoStar DBS Corporation, has elected to retire all of its outstanding 9 1/4% Senior Notes due 2006, three years early pursuant to its optional early redemption right. See Press Release, dated December 31, 2002, "EchoStar Announces Early Redemption of 9 1/4% Senior Notes" attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

### SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

EHOSTAR COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

Dated: December 31, 2002

By: /s/ Michael R. McDonnell

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Michael R. McDonnell  
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

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## INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Exhibit Number	Description
99.1	Press Release "EchoStar Announces Early Redemption of 9 1/4% Senior Notes" dated December 31, 2002.

**ECHOSTAR ANNOUNCES EARLY REDEMPTION OF  
9 1/4 % SENIOR NOTES**

Littleton, Colo., Dec. 31, 2002 — EchoStar Communications Corporation (Nasdaq: DISH) announced today that its subsidiary, EchoStar DBS Corporation, has elected to retire all of its outstanding 9 1/4 % Senior Notes due 2006, three years early pursuant to its optional early redemption right. In accordance with the terms of the indenture governing the notes, the \$375 million principal amount of the notes will be repurchased effective Feb. 1, 2003, at 104.625 percent, a total of approximately \$392 million. Interest will be paid through the Feb. 1, 2003, redemption date. The trustee for the notes is the U.S. Bank Trust National Association.

EchoStar Communications Corporation and its DISH Network satellite TV system provide over 500 channels of digital video and CD-quality audio programming as well as advanced satellite TV receiver hardware and installation nationwide. EchoStar is included in the Nasdaq-100 Index (NDX) which contains the largest non-financial companies on the Nasdaq Stock Market. Visit EchoStar's Investor Relations website at <[www.echostar.com](http://www.echostar.com)>. DISH Network currently serves over 8 million customers in the United States. DISH Network is located on the Internet at <[www.dishnetwork.com](http://www.dishnetwork.com)>.

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