

FORM 3

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

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

(Type or Print Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*

Groupe Canal+

(Last) (First) (Middle)

85-89, Quai Andre Citroen

(Street)

75711 Paris Cedex 15 France

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year)

January 22, 2002

3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)

Not Applicable (foreign entity)

4. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

EchoStar Communications Corporation (DISH)

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

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

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

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 Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
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Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.
*If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(b)(v).

FORM 3 (continued)

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

1. Title of Derivative	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative	5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
	Date Exer-	Amount or Number of			

Security (Instr. 4)	cusip	Date	Title	Shares	Security	(Instr. 5)	(Instr. 5)
Series D Mandatorily Convertible Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	See Note (1)	See Note (2)	Class A Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	57,604,790	See Note (3)	I	See Note(4)

Explanation of Responses:

- (1) The 5,760,479 shares of Series D mandatorily convertible participating preferred stock, par value \$.01 per share (the "Preferred Stock"), of EchoStar Communications Corporation, a Nevada corporation (the "Company") may only be held beneficially or of record by Vivendi Universal, S.A., a societe anonyme organized under the laws of France ("Vivendi Universal"), or any direct or indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Vivendi Universal (collectively "the Holders", each individually a "Holder"). Each share of Preferred Stock is convertible into 10 shares of Class A common stock, par value \$.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.
- (2) In the event that none of the Holders elect to convert shares of Preferred Stock in the manner described in Note (1), 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, a Delaware 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 a Holder, or (iv) January 22, 2007.
- (3) The purchase price of the Preferred Stock was \$1,499,999,929.21 in cash. On the terms described in Notes (1) and (2), each share of Preferred Stock is convertible into 10 shares of Common Stock.
- (4) On January 22, 2002 the Preferred Stock was purchased by Financiere in exchange for the consideration described in Note (3).

** 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.

GROUPE CANAL+

by /s/ Pierre Lescure
Name: Pierre Lescure
Title: Chairman and Chief Operating Officer

January 22, 2002
Date

**Signature of Reporting Person