

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR
15(d) OF THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1934

DATE OF REPORT (DATE OF EARLIEST EVENT REPORTED): December 17, 1999
(December 3, 1999)

ECHOSTAR COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

(EXACT NAME OF REGISTRANT AS SPECIFIED IN ITS CHARTER)

Nevada

0-26176

88-0336997

(STATE OR OTHER
JURISDICTION OF
INCORPORATION)

(COMMISSION
FILE NUMBER)

(I.R.S. EMPLOYER
IDENTIFICATION NO.)

5701 S. SANTA FE DRIVE, LITTLETON, COLORADO 80120

(ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES)(ZIP CODE)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (303) 723-1000

(FORMER NAME OR FORMER ADDRESS, IF CHANGED SINCE LAST REPORT.)

ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS

EchoStar Communications Corporation ("EchoStar") announced on December 3, 1999, that it increased its offering of Convertible Subordinated Notes to \$750 million. The notes will bear interest at an annual rate of 4 7/8% and will be due January 1, 2007. The notes are convertible into shares of EchoStar Class A Common Stock at a conversion price of \$90.88 per share. The notes have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933 and are being offered pursuant to Rule 144A thereunder.

EchoStar announced on December 6, 1999, that the initial purchasers in its previously announced \$750 million Convertible Subordinated Notes offering have exercised their over-allotment option to purchase an additional \$250 million of Convertible Subordinated Notes. The notes have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933 and are being offered pursuant to Rule 144A thereunder.

ITEM 7. EXHIBITS INDEX

Exhibit - - - - -	Description - - - - -
99.1	Press Release, dated December 3, 1999, issued by EchoStar announcing an increase in its Convertible Notes offering to \$750 million.
99.2	Press Release, dated December 6, 1999, issued by EchoStar announcing an additional \$250 million in its convertible notes offering.

SIGNATURES

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

ECHOSTAR COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

Date: December 16, 1999

By /s/ David K. Moskowitz

David K. Moskowitz, Secretary, Vice
President and General Counsel

EXHIBIT INDEX

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99.1	Press Release, dated December 3, 1999, issued by EchoStar announcing an increase in its Convertible Notes offering to \$750 million.
99.2	Press Release, dated December 6, 1999, issued by EchoStar announcing an additional \$250 million in its convertible notes offering.

EXHIBIT 99.1

ECHOSTAR COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION ANNOUNCES AN INCREASE IN ITS CONVERTIBLE NOTES OFFERING TO \$750 MILLION

December 3, 1999 09:02 AM Eastern Time

LITTLETON, Colo.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Dec. 3, 1999--EchoStar Communications Corporation DISH today announced that it increased its offering of Convertible Subordinated Notes to \$750 million. The notes will bear interest at an annual rate of 4 7/8% and will be due January 1, 2007. The notes are convertible into shares of EchoStar Class A Common Stock at a conversion price of \$90.88 per share. The net proceeds of the offering are expected to be used to fund subscriber acquisition costs, for capital expenditures in connection with the construction and launch of additional satellites or for other general corporate purposes (including potential acquisitions and debt service). The notes have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933 and are being offered pursuant to Rule 144A thereunder. The notes may not be offered or sold in the United States absent registration under such Act or an applicable exemption from registration requirements.

EchoStar Communications Corp., includes three interrelated business units:

- o DISH Network(TM) is EchoStar's state-of-the-art direct broadcast satellite system that is capable of offering over 500 channels of digital video and CD-quality audio programming, fully MPEG-2/DVB compliant hardware and installation. DISH Network was also ranked number one in customer satisfaction among satellite/cable TV subscribers by the J.D. Power and Associates 1999 Cable/Satellite TV Customer Satisfaction Study.
- o EchoStar Technologies Corporation designs, manufactures and distributes DBS set-top boxes, antennas and other digital equipment for the DISH Network and various international customers that include ExpressVu Canada and the Via Digital system in Spain. ETC provides construction, oversight and project integration services for customers internationally. ETC also oversees EchoStar Data Networks Corporation in Atlanta, a leading supplier of MediaStream(R) technology for distributing Internet content over satellite networks.
- o Satellite Services provides the delivery of video, audio and data services to business television customers and other satellite users. These services include satellite uplink, satellite transponder space usage and other services. Satellite Services also administers SKY VISTA, a direct broadcast satellite service offering popular digital satellite television programming to viewers in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories in the Caribbean.

DISH Network, which currently serves over 3.1 million customers, is a trademark of EchoStar Communications Corporation. DISH Network is located on the Internet at www.dishnetwork.com.

EXHIBIT 99.2

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Judianne Atencio
Director of Communications
EchoStar Communications Corp.
303/723-2010
judianne.atencio@echostar.com

ECHOSTAR COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION ANNOUNCES AN ADDITIONAL
\$250 MILLION IN ITS CONVERTIBLE NOTES OFFERING

Littleton, Colo., Monday, December 6, 1999 - EchoStar Communications Corporation (NASDAQ:DISH, DISHP) today announced that the initial purchasers in its previously announced \$750 million Convertible Subordinated Notes offering have exercised their over-allotment option to purchase an additional \$250 million of Convertible Subordinated Notes. All of the notes will bear interest at an annual rate of 4 7/8% and will be due January 1, 2007. The notes are convertible into shares of EchoStar Class A Common Stock at a conversion price of \$90.88 per share. The net proceeds of the offering are expected to be used to fund subscriber acquisition costs, for capital expenditures in connection with the construction and launch of additional satellites or for other general corporate purposes (including potential acquisitions and debt service). The notes have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933 and are being offered pursuant to Rule 144A thereunder. The notes may not be offered or sold in the United States absent registration under such Act or an applicable exemption from registration requirements.

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