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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

**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): April 12, 2006

**ECHOSTAR COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

NEVADA  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation)

0-26176  
(Commission File Number)

88-0336997  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

9601 S. MERIDIAN BLVD.  
ENGLEWOOD, COLORADO  
(Address of principal executive offices)

80112  
(Zip Code)

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

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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### **Item 8.01 Other Events**

On April 12, 2006, one of our subsidiaries completed an initial equity investment of \$34 million in a non-U.S. satellite services project. We have committed to provide up to an additional \$116 million in equity and debt funding for the project, subject to the satisfaction of various project milestones and customary financing conditions.

Most of the initial funding and contingent commitment is expected to be used to fund a portion of the construction costs of a satellite to be used by the project. EchoStar also has the right but not the obligation to provide substantial additional financing to the project to fund its future capital expenditures and working capital requirements.

### **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: April 12, 2006

By: /s/ David K. Moskowitz

David K. Moskowitz

Executive Vice President, General Counsel and  
Secretary