

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

( ) Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.  
 Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instructions 1(b).

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person  
 Ergen, Cantey  
 5701 S. Santa Fe Drive  
 Littleton, CO 80120  
 USA
2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 EchoStar Communications Corporation  
 DISH
3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)
4. Statement for Month/Year  
 4/3/2003
5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)
6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)  
 Director ( ) 10% Owner ( ) Officer (give title below) ( ) Other  
 (specify below)  
 Outside Director
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	2. Transaction Date	3. Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month A/D Price	6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
----------------------	---------------------	---------	---	---	-------------------------------	--

Table II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date	4. Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date A/Exercise Date	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities Title and Number of Shares	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	10. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
---------------------------------	--	---------------------	---------	--	--	--	---------------------------------	---	--------------------------------	---

Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$28.88	3/31/2003	A	100,000	A (1) 3/31/2013	Class A Common Stock	100,000	100,000	I	(2)
--------------------------------------	---------	-----------	---	---------	-----------------	----------------------	---------	---------	---	-----

Explanation of Responses:  
 (1) The shares underlying the option vest at a rate of 20% per year, commencing March 31, 2004.  
 (2) The option is in the name of the reporting person's spouse.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON  
 /s/ Cantey Ergen

DATE  
 4/3/2003