

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): September 28, 2001

ECHOSTAR COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION
(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

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| NEVADA (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation) | 0-26176 (Commission File Number) | 88-0336997 (IRS Employer Identification No.) |
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| 5701 S. SANTA FE DRIVE LITTLETON, COLORADO (Address of principal executive offices) | 80120 (Zip Code) |
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Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (303) 723-1000

ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS

EchoStar completes \$50 million investment in StarBand Communications Inc. See press release attached 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.

ECHOSTAR COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

Dated: September 28, 2001

By: /s/ Michael R. McDonnell

Michael R. McDonnell,
Senior Vice President and Chief
Financial Officer

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

| EXHIBIT NUMBER | DESCRIPTION - |
|---|---------------|
| ----- 99.1 | ----- |
| Press Release, dated September 27, 2001, issued by EchoStar Communications Corporation announcing completion of \$50 million investment in Starband Communications Inc. | |

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EHOSTAR COMPLETES \$50 MILLION INVESTMENT IN STARBAND

LITTLETON, COLO., AND MCLEAN, VA. - SEPT. 27, 2001 - EchoStar Communications Corporation (Nasdaq: DISH) and StarBand Communications Inc. today announced that they have completed their agreement that increases EchoStar's financial investment in StarBand by an additional \$50 million in cash. This agreement was previously announced on July 11, 2001. This increases EchoStar's equity stake in StarBand to approximately 32 percent, which will further increase to approximately 60 percent upon commencement of the construction of a next generation satellite to be allocated for the StarBand service. EchoStar, the parent company of DISH Network(TM), the nation's fastest growing pay television provider, originally invested \$50 million in StarBand in April 2000, and is one of the largest distribution channels for StarBand - the nation's first two-way, always-on, high-speed satellite-delivered Internet service. This agreement continues EchoStar's strategy to offer a complete bundled package of Internet, programming and interactive television services to its more than 6 million U.S. DISH Network customers.

ABOUT STARBAND

StarBand Communications Inc. is America's first nationwide provider of two-way, always-on, high-speed Internet access via satellite to residential customers. Founded in early 2000, StarBand's investors and strategic partners include EchoStar Communications Corporation, Gilat Satellite Networks Ltd., Microsoft Corporation, and ING Furman Selz Investments. StarBand has exclusive rights to Gilat's two-way high-speed Internet technology to consumers in the United States and Canada. StarBand Communications is based in McLean, Virginia. Visit StarBand at www.starband.com. StarBand is a trademark and service mark of StarBand Communications Inc.

ABOUT EHOSTAR

EchoStar Communications Corporation and its DISH Network offer a state-of-the-art direct broadcast satellite TV system capable of offering over 500 channels of digital video and CD-quality audio programming, as well as fully MPEG-2/DVB compliant hardware and installation.

EchoStar is included in the Nasdaq-100 Index (NDX), which contains the largest non-financial companies on the Nasdaq Stock Market. DISH Network currently serves over 6 million customers. For more information, visit www.dishnetwork.com.

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