

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): November 17, 2003

ECHOSTAR COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

NEVADA
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

0-26176
(Commission
File Number)

88-0336997
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

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

80112
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

(303) 723-1000

ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS

Effective November 17, 2003, C. Michael Schroeder was appointed to serve on the EchoStar Communications Corporation Board of Directors. The appointment of Mr. Schroeder increases the size of EchoStar's board to eight members. Mr. Schroeder was a founder of Consumer Satellite Systems, Inc. (CSS) in 1981, which he grew to encompass a 10 state distribution system operating in a region ranging from Wisconsin to Florida. CSS served retailers selling satellite systems, televisions and a range of consumer electronics products. Mr. Schroeder also founded a programming division that grew to serve over 400,000 subscribers. Mr. Schroeder is now retired. See Press Release, dated November 17, 2003, "EchoStar Appoints New Board Member" attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[SIGNATURES](#)

[INDEX TO EXHIBITS](#)

[EX-99.1 Press Release](#)

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: November 19, 2003

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 "EchoStar Appoints New Board Member" dated November 17, 2003.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECHOSTAR APPOINTS NEW BOARD MEMBER

ENGLEWOOD, Colo., Nov. 17, 2003 — EchoStar Communications Corp. (NASDAQ: DISH) today announced that C. Michael Schroeder has agreed to join the company's Board of Directors effective immediately. The appointment of Mr. Schroeder increases the size of EchoStar's board to eight members.

Mr. Schroeder, a long time veteran of the satellite industry, brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the board. A founder of Consumer Satellite Systems, Inc. (CSS) in 1981, he grew his company to encompass a 10 state distribution system operating in a region ranging from Wisconsin to Florida. CSS served retailers selling satellite systems, televisions and a range of consumer electronics products. Mr. Schroeder also founded a programming division that grew to serve over 400,000 subscribers. Mr. Schroeder is now retired.

"We welcome Mike to our Board and we look forward to working with him," said Charles Ergen, CEO and Chairman of EchoStar. "Mike will be a valuable contributor because of his extensive experience in the direct broadcast satellite industry."

About EchoStar Communications

EchoStar Communications Corporation (NASDAQ: DISH) serves over 9 million satellite TV customers through its DISH Network™, and is a leading U.S. provider of advanced digital television services. DISH Network's services include hundreds of video and audio channels, Interactive TV, HDTV, sports and international programming, together with professional installation and 24-hour customer service. DISH Network is the leader in the sale of digital video recorders (DVRs). EchoStar has been a leader for 23 years in digital satellite TV equipment sales and support worldwide. EchoStar is included in the Nasdaq-100 Index (NDX) and is a Fortune 500 company. Visit EchoStar's Web site at <www.echostar.com> or call 1-800-333-DISH (3474).

Media Contact: Steve Caulk, 303-723-2010, steve.caulk@echostar.com

###