

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  
 DeFranco, James  
 5701 South Santa Fe Drive  
 Littleton, CO 80120  
 U.S.A.
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  
 5/31/01
5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)
6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)  
 (X) Director ( ) 10% Owner (X) Officer (give title below) ( ) Other  
 (specify below)  
 Executive Vice President
7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)  
 (X) 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)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership	
			Amount	A/D	Price				
Class A Common Stock	5/1/01	A	V	10	A	(1)	5,310,862	D	
							50,000	I	(2)
							2,200,000	I	(3)
							17,825	I	(4)
							6,008	I	(5)

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)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	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

Explanation of Responses:

- (1) The shares were awarded without cost to the reporting person, pursuant to the 2000 Launch Bonus Plan of the Company for past services to the Company. For tax purposes, the shares were priced as of April 30, 2001, but were not distributed until the beginning of May.
- (2) The shares were contributed by the reporting person to irrevocable trust for the benefit of reporting person's children and grandchildren. The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares.
- (3) The shares are held by DeFranco Investment Co., Ltd., a general partnership, of which the reporting person is the sole general partner.
- (4) During March 2000, the Company issued additional shares of Class A Common Stock to EchoStar Communications Corporation's 401(k) Employees' Savings Plan ("The Plan"). The number of shares reported in column 5 represents the total number of shares allocated to the reporting person's account through the Plan to date. The reporting person has dispositive, but no voting power with respect to the shares.
- (5) The shares are held by the reporting person as custodian for his minor children. The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON  
 /s/ James DeFranco

DATE  
 6/1/01