Countdown Underway for the Launch of the EchoStar XI Satellite

Long Beach, Calif., July 14, 2008 – The Sea Launch team arrived at the launch site in the Equatorial Pacific over the weekend and initiated a 72-hour countdown, in preparation for the launch of the EchoStar XI satellite on Tuesday, July 15. Liftoff is planned at 10:21pm PDT, July 15 (5:21 GMT, July 16), at the opening of a two-hour launch window.

Upon arrival at the launch site, at 154 degrees West Longitude, the team ballasted the *Odyssey* Launch Platform to launch depth. A final series of tests on all systems is now underway. Prior to fueling operations, the platform will be evacuated, with all personnel safely positioned on the ship, about four miles from the platform. One hour after liftoff, a Zenit-3SL vehicle will insert the 5,511 kg (12,150 lb) EchoStar XI satellite into geosynchronous transfer orbit, on its way to a final orbital location of 110 degrees West Longitude.

Built by Space Systems/Loral (SS/L), the powerful 20-kW spacecraft, carries a Ku-band payload that will support DISH Network's direct broadcast television service for its customers throughout the United States. This spacecraft is designed for a 15-year service life on orbit. This is the 3rd mission Sea Launch is executing for DISH Network and the 8th mission with a spacecraft built by SS/L.

Sea Launch will provide live coverage of the EchoStar XI mission via satellite and on the company website, beginning at 10:10pm PDT on July 15 (5:10 GMT, July 16). Live streaming video will be posted at: www.sea-launch.com/current_index_webcast.html. Transponder coordinates for downlinking the satellite feed are provided at: http://www.boeing.com/nosearch/sealaunch/broadcast.html. Dish Network also plans to carry live mission coverage on DISH Channel 101.

About Sea Launch Company

Sea Launch Company, LLC, headquartered in Long Beach, Calif., offers the most direct and cost-effective route to geostationary orbit for commercial communications satellites. With the advantage of a launch site on the Equator, the robust Zenit-3SL rocket can lift a heavier mass or provide longer life on orbit, offering best value plus optimized spacecraft orbital delivery. Sea Launch also offers launch services for medium weight satellites on the Land Launch system, originating from the Baikonur Space Center in Kazakhstan. For additional information and images about the EchoStar XI mission, please visit the Sea Launch website at: www.sea-launch.com

Contact: Paula Korn, 562.499.4729 or 562.254.5684 (cell), paula.korn@sea-launch.com
During launch operations, please contact our News Center at 562.951.7088 or 562.951.7388