

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): OCTOBER 7, 1999

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.)
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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 Communications Corporation ("EchoStar") announced on October 7, 1999 that its Board of Directors has approved a 2-for-1 split of its common stock. Stockholders of record at the close of business on October 18, 1999 will be entitled to one additional share of common stock for each share they own on that date. New shares will be mailed or delivered on or about October 25, 1999.

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: October 7, 1999

By: /s/ Doron Gorshein
Doron Gorshein,
Vice President and Associate
General Counsel

EXHIBITS INDEX

Exhibit	Description -----
99.1	Press Release, dated October 7, 1999, issued by EchoStar announcing 2-for-1 stock split

EchoStar Communications Corporation Announces 2-for-1 Stock Split

Littleton, Colo., Oct. 7, 1999 - EchoStar Communications Corporation (NASDAQ:DISH, DISHP) today announced that its Board of Directors has approved a 2-for-1 split of its common stock. Stockholders of record at the close of business on Oct. 18, 1999, will be entitled to one additional share of common stock for each share they own on that date. New shares will be mailed or delivered on or about the payable date, Oct. 25, 1999, by the Company's transfer agent, American Securities Transfer & Trust, Inc. The ex-dividend date, the date on which the change in the stock price will be reflected on the NASDAQ market, will be on or about Oct. 26, 1999. The stock split will increase the number of shares of Class A common stock outstanding from approximately 54.3 million shares to approximately 108.6 million shares and Class B common stock outstanding from approximately 59.6 million shares to approximately 119.2 million shares.

EchoStar Communications Corp., includes three interrelated business units:

- * DISH Network (TM) is EchoStar's state-of-the-art direct broadcast satellite system that is capable of offering over 500 channels of digital video and CD-quality audio programming, fully MPEG-2/DVB compliant hardware and installation. DISH Network was also ranked number one in customer satisfaction among satellite/cable TV subscribers by the J.D. Power and Associates 1999 Cable/Satellite TV Customer Satisfaction Study.
- * EchoStar Technologies Corporation designs, manufactures and distributes DBS set-top boxes, antennas and other digital equipment for the DISH Network and various international customers that include ExpressVu Canada and the Via Digital system in Spain. ETC provides construction, oversight and project integration services for customers internationally. ETC also oversees EchoStar Data Networks Corporation in Atlanta, a leading supplier of MediaStream (R) technology for distributing Internet content over satellite networks.
- * Satellite Services provides the delivery of video, audio and data services to business television customers and other satellite users. These services include satellite uplink, satellite transponder space usage and other services. Satellite Services also administers Sky Vista, a direct broadcast satellite service offering popular digital satellite television programming to viewers in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories in the Caribbean.

DISH Network, which currently serves over 3 million customers, is a trademark of EchoStar Communications Corporation. DISH Network is located on the Internet at www.dishnetwork.com.

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