

SpaceData

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14 May 2001

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SpaceData Receives FCC License To Operate TDRSS System

World's fastest commercial data transfer by satellite

McLEAN, Va., May 14, 2001 /PRNewswire/ – SpaceData International announced today formal notification from the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) of a long term FCC Order and Authorization to operate the NASA Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System (TDRSS) on a “time-share” basis with NASA and the U.S. Government.

The first of it's kind in the commercial world; this FCC License for SpaceData with the NASA TDRSS is the result of a cooperative effort between NASA, the National Telecommunication Information Agency (NTIA) and the Federal Communication Commission.

With the NASA TDRSS, SpaceData has designed, developed and now operates the fastest commercial satellite data transfer capability in the world transferring data today at 311 Mbps with 466 Mbps under development.

SpaceData's initial commercial business is a new service, SeismicStar, for the marine seismic exploration segment of the gas & oil industry with the high speed satellite broadband-on-command delivery of 3-D seismic data files directly from ocean going seismic exploration vessels to terrestrial supercomputers for processing and evaluation. Designed to transmit data at 311 Mbps directly from

operational seismic exploration vessels in international waters worldwide, SpaceData's SeismicStar provides a complete end-to-end seismic data transfer service for the gas and oil industry when mapping the sub-ocean floors to locate and manage drilling sites for new and existing oil and gas reservoirs.

SpaceData's first customer for SeismicStar is the world's largest seismic service contractor, WesternGeco, a joint venture between Schlumberger (NYSE: SLB) and Baker Hughes (NYSE: BKR). SpaceData's SeismicStar services for WesternGeco began with sea-trials last September, under FCC Special Temporary Authority (STA), operating off the coast of Brazil and transferred over 13 terabytes of uncompressed marine seismic data to WesternGeco's Houston facility to date. SpaceData's SeismicStar reached a one-day satellite broadband record transferring 422 gigabytes of data directly from the Western Patriot seismic vessel to NASA's White Sands Center and then by fiber to WesternGeco's Houston site.

SpaceData's subcontractor for operations and support is General Dynamics Worldwide Telecommunications System (GD-WTS), a business unit of General Dynamics (NYSE: GD), where SeismicStar is assembled, integrated, tested, installed, and remotely operated onboard seismic vessels. General Dynamics is also responsible for operating the SeismicStar network's terrestrial earth station's facilities and high-speed fiber connectivity to customer's terrestrial supercomputers for seismic data processing. SpaceData's Control Center (Las Cruces, NM), built and operated by GD-WTS, is providing operational control and maintenance for the entire end-to-end worldwide SeismicStar system. More information about General Dynamics Worldwide Telecommunications Systems is available on the Internet at www.gd-wts.com.

About SpaceData International

SpaceData International LLC was established in 1998, based in McLean, Virginia, specifically for the commercialization of the NASA Space and Ground

Network by developing a business for the provisioning of very high-speed 'broadband-on-command' satellite transmission of gigabyte-size data files utilizing a constellation of NASA TDRS geostationary satellites. Additional information illustrating SpaceData is available by contacting Jay Gnowles at jknowles@spacedata-int.com or on the Internet at www.spacedata-int.com.

About General Dynamics

General Dynamics Worldwide Telecommunications Systems engineers, furnished, installs, maintains and supports a full range of communications systems and information networks, including asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) and Gigabit Ethernet (Gig-E) networks, large digital switches, satellite communications systems, campus distribution systems and wireless networks. Major customers include the U.S. Department of Defense, civilian Federal agencies and commercial telecommunications service providers.

General Dynamics, headquartered in Falls Church, Virginia, employs approximately 46,000 people worldwide and anticipates annualized sales in 2001 of approximately \$11.5 billion. The company has leading market positions in shipbuilding and marine systems, land and amphibious combat systems, information systems and business aviation. More information about the General Dynamics is available on the Internet at www.generaldynamics.com.

SOURCE: SpaceData International LLC

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