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ECHOSTAR COMMUNICATIONS CORP
Form 8-K
July 12, 2001

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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): July 11, 2001

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

As summarized in the press release attached as Exhibit 99.1, EchoStar Communications Corporation ("EchoStar") announced today that, subject to customary regulatory approval, it has increased its equity stake in Starband Communications Inc. ("Starband") to 32% and has acquired four out of seven seats on the Starband Board of Directors. In exchange, EchoStar will invest an additional \$50 million in Starband. Further, EchoStar will lease transponder capacity to Starband from a next generation satellite. EchoStar's equity stake will increase to 60% upon commencement of the construction of the next generation satellite.

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: July 11, 2001

By: /s/ Michael R. McDonnell

Michael R. McDonnell,
Senior Vice President and Chief

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Financial Officer

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EXHIBIT INDEX

EXHIBIT NUMBER -----	DESCRIPTION -----
99.1	Press Release, dated July 11, 2001, issued by EchoStar announcing increased equity stake in Starband Communications Inc.