

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Hughes Communications India to Connect 2500 Locations in the North East, Jammu & Kashmir, Utrakhand and Himachal under the NeGP Initiative**

**New Delhi, August 23, 2011**—Hughes Communications India, Ltd. (HCIL), a majority owned subsidiary of Hughes Network Systems, LLC (Hughes), the global leader in broadband satellite solutions and services, today announced a contract to connect 2500 locations in the North-East, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Utrakhand through broadband Internet under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP). The contract has been awarded to them by CSC-SPV (CSC e-Governance Services India Limited), on behalf of DIT (The Department of Information Technology), through a tender process. Hughes will supply, install and commission the VSAT terminals in the most difficult parts of India where other modes of delivering broadband services are not available.

The main objective of this project is to make available broadband access over satellite to the Internet and other digital services available to the unserved population using the latest standards and technologies like DVB S2 with ACM. These technologies enable 100% improvement in bandwidth efficiency in heavy rain areas, increased geographic coverage, and high service availability, which are essential features in remote and hilly topography.

The Government of India has formulated the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) with the vision of providing all government services in an integrated manner at the doorstep of the citizen at an affordable cost. To implement this plan, CSC e-Governance Services India Limited (CSC-SPV) is facilitating establishment of a network of more than 100,000 Internet-enabled ICT access points named Common Services Centers (CSC). The CSCs are meant to provide cost-effective content in the areas of e-Governance, Education, and Health, as well as many other government and private services.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Pranav Roach, president, Hughes Network Systems India, said, “Improving broadband connectivity is the prime focus and it is reflected by the increased investments in expansion of the broadband infrastructure in this country. Today, several thousand CSCs have already been deployed across the country. Using satellite technology, Hughes provides connectivity and other services to more than 10,000 CSCs. These CSCs are a “one-stop solution for services including Government citizen services, education, travel, and banking and finance at these centers.”

“The most remote areas offer a challenge to traditional networks. VSATs are seen as the ideal solution for these areas. All VSATs deployed by Hughes will be delivered and installed within 14 weeks.”

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### **About Hughes Communications India, Ltd.**

Hughes Communications India, Ltd. (HCIL) is India's leading provider of satellite broadband networks. The company provides broadband satellite networks and services for enterprises, governments and small businesses. Hughes encompasses all broadband solutions and managed services from Hughes, bridging the best of satellite and terrestrial technologies. It pioneered and is the leading provider of several new services and applications such as interactive distance learning and rural networks for bringing the benefits of broadband to the underserved markets.

HCIL is a majority owned subsidiary of Hughes Network Systems, LLC. For additional information, please visit [www.hughes.in](http://www.hughes.in).

### **About Hughes Network Systems**

Hughes Network Systems, LLC (Hughes) is the world's leading provider of satellite broadband for home and office, delivering innovative network technologies, managed services, and solutions for enterprises and governments globally. HughesNet® is the #1 high-speed satellite Internet service in the marketplace, with offerings to suit every budget. To date, Hughes has shipped more than 2.5 million systems to customers in over 100 countries, representing over 50 percent market share. Its products employ global standards approved by the TIA, ETSI and ITU organizations, including IPoS/DVB-S2, RSM-A, and GMR-1.

Headquartered outside Washington, D.C., in Germantown, Maryland, USA, Hughes operates sales and support offices worldwide, and is a wholly owned subsidiary of EchoStar Corporation (NASDAQ: SATS), a premier global provider of satellite operations and digital TV solutions. For additional information about Hughes, please visit [www.hughes.com](http://www.hughes.com).

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