

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Judy Blake  
Hughes Network Systems, LLC  
(301) 601-7330  
[judy.blake@hughes.com](mailto:judy.blake@hughes.com)

Casey Savio  
Brodeur Partners  
(202) 775-2656  
[csavio@brodeur.com](mailto:csavio@brodeur.com)

### **Hughes Awards Skynet Satellite Systems Platinum Dealer Status**

*Successful North Carolina Dealer Recognized for Superior Customer Service with HughesNet® High-Speed Satellite Broadband*

**Germantown, Md., September 6, 2011**—Hughes Network Systems, LLC (HUGHES), the global leader in broadband satellite networks and services, today announced that Skynet Satellite Systems (Skynet), a North Carolina-based satellite television and Internet access dealer, has been awarded platinum dealer status for its success in acquiring and supporting new residential and small business customers of HughesNet, the nations' #1 high-speed satellite Internet service.

With more than 620,000 subscribers in 96 percent of America's zip codes, HughesNet satellite broadband reaches communities everywhere, including those underserved or unserved by terrestrial technologies such as DSL or cable. Skynet's passion for providing their community of Fayetteville superior customer service with HughesNet high-speed Internet by satellite is what has helped them reach the platinum level distinction.

"We have been in the satellite industry for over eight years and are excited to be able to offer our customers our Internet expertise," said Jessica Ranavaya of Skynet. "Introducing our customers who are still using slow dial-up to the high-speed service that HughesNet satellite broadband delivers is a great experience for us. Seeing people, who were previously frustrated when using the Internet, be happy with their HughesNet service makes us committed to finding those in our community who are still struggling with dial-up."

Skynet is proud to be based in Fayetteville and to be an important part of the community. They attribute their platinum dealer status to having talented and dedicated local technicians who are committed to making the HughesNet installation process both personalized and stress-free for their customers.

"Our staff knows that customers have a choice in satellite Internet providers," said Ranavaya. "We truly care about finding Internet solutions that meet each person's specific needs. HughesNet has helped us give our customers a high-speed solution that can reach anyone regardless of physical location. We've seen HughesNet become extremely popular as we continue to spread the word in Fayetteville that there is an alternative to dial-up that is fast and affordable. "

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“Hughes is impressed by Skynet Satellite Systems’ commitment to providing high-quality service,” said Allen McCabe, vice president for Channel Sales at Hughes. “We know that we will continue to see Skynet thrive as a result of their dedication to providing customers with HughesNet, and especially reaching those where other options, such as DSL and cable are unavailable.”

### **About Skynet Satellite Systems**

Skynet Satellite Systems is located in Fayetteville, North Carolina. They provide home entertainment solutions in addition to HughesNet satellite Internet and satellite TV solutions from DISH Network and DirecTV. The Skynet staff is passionate about their business and is committed to providing the very best service to their customers.

Skynet Satellite Systems is one of the leading installation and sales companies for the HughesNet service. For additional information, please call 1-910-433-DISH or visit [www.skynetofnc.com](http://www.skynetofnc.com).

### **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 TIA, ETSI and ITU organizations, including IPoS/DVB-S2, RSM-A, and GMR-1.

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

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