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NEWS AMERICA INC
Form SC 13D/A
September 18, 2001

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

SCHEDULE 13D
(Rule 13d-101)

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN STATEMENTS FILED
PURSUANT TO RULE 13d-1(a) AND AMENDMENTS THERETO
FILED PURSUANT TO RULE 13d-2(a)

(Amendment No. 4)/1/

ECHOSTAR COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

(Name of Issuer)

Class A Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share

(Title of Class of Securities)

282-762-109
(CUSIP Number)

Arthur M. Siskind, Esq.
The News Corporation Limited
c/o News America Incorporated
1211 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
(212) 852-7000

with copies to:

Stephen H. Kay, Esq.
Squadron Ellenoff Plesent & Sheinfeld, LLP
551 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10176
(212) 661-6500

(Name, address and telephone number of person
authorized to receive notices and communications)

August 30, 2001
(Date of event which Requires Filing of this Statement)

If the filing person has previously filed a statement on Schedule 13G to report the acquisition that is the subject of this Schedule 13D, and is filing this schedule because of Rule 13d-1(e), 13d-1(f) or 13d-1(g), check the following box .

Note. Schedules filed in paper format shall include a signed original and five copies of the schedule, including all exhibits. See Rule 13d-7 for other parties to whom copies are to be sent.

/1/ The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting

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 13 Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (11)
 7.5%/1/

14 Type of Reporting Person
 CO

 /1/ Based on 240,306,159 shares of Class A Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share ("Class A Common Stock") of EchoStar Communications Corporation ("EchoStar") outstanding as of July 13, 2001 as reported in the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of EchoStar for the quarter ended June 30, 2001 (the "Form 10-Q"). Considering the 18,021,160 shares of Class A Common Stock held by News America Incorporated ("NAI"), together with the 8,203,760 shares of Class A Common Stock held by MCI Telecommunications Corporation ("MCI"), the percentage of the Class A Common Stock that the Reporting Persons (as defined herein) may be deemed to have beneficial ownership would be approximately 10.9%. As reported in the Form 10-Q, there were outstanding 238,435,208 shares of Class B Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share ("Class B Common Stock") of EchoStar. Because such Class B Common Stock is convertible on a one-for-one basis into Class A Common Stock, assuming conversion of shares of Class B Common Stock into Class A Common Stock, the percentage of the Class A Common Stock that the Reporting Persons may be deemed to have beneficial ownership of would be approximately 3.8%. Because each share of Class B Common Stock is entitled to 10 votes per share, the Reporting Persons beneficially own equity securities of EchoStar representing approximately .69% of the voting power of EchoStar (assuming no conversion of the Class B Common Stock).

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 1 Name of Reporting Persons/S.S. or I.R.S. Identification Nos. of
 Above Persons
 News America Incorporated/13-3249610

2 Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group
 (a) (b)

3 SEC Use Only

4 Source of Funds
 OO

5 Check Box if Disclosure of Legal Proceedings is Required Pursuant to
 Item 2(d) or 2(e)

6 Citizenship or Place of Organization
 Delaware, U.S.A.

 Number of Shares Beneficially 7 Sole Voting Power

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Owned by Each Reporting Person with		18,021,160
	8	Shared Voting Power -0-
	9	Sole Dispositive Power 18,021,160
	10	Shared Dispositive Power -0-
11	Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person 18,021,160	
12	Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (11) Excludes Certain Shares <input type="checkbox"/>	
13	Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (11) 7.5%/2/	
14	Type of Reporting Person CO	

/2/ Based on 240,306,159 shares of Class A Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share ("Class A Common Stock") of EchoStar Communications Corporation ("EchoStar") outstanding as of July 13, 2001 as reported in the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of EchoStar for the quarter ended June 30, 2001 (the "Form 10-Q"). Considering the 18,021,160 shares of Class A Common Stock held by News America Incorporated ("NAI"), together with the 8,203,760 shares of Class A Common Stock held by MCI Telecommunications Corporation ("MCI"), the percentage of the Class A Common Stock that the Reporting Persons (as defined herein) may be deemed to have beneficial ownership would be approximately 10.9%. As reported in the Form 10-Q, there were outstanding 238,435,208 shares of Class B Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share ("Class B Common Stock") of EchoStar. Because such Class B Common Stock is convertible on a one-for-one basis into Class A Common Stock, assuming conversion of shares of Class B Common Stock into Class A Common Stock, the percentage of the Class A Common Stock that the Reporting Persons may be deemed to have beneficial ownership of would be approximately 3.8%. Because each share of Class B Common Stock is entitled to 10 votes per share, the Reporting Persons beneficially own equity securities of EchoStar representing approximately .69% of the voting power of EchoStar (assuming no conversion of the Class B Common Stock).

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1	Name of Reporting Persons/S.S. or I.R.S. Identification Nos. of Above Persons K. Rupert Murdoch
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2 Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group
 (a) (b)

3 SEC Use Only

4 Source of Funds
 00

5 Check Box if Disclosure of Legal Proceedings is Required Pursuant to
 Item 2(d) or 2(e)

6 Citizenship or Place of Organization
 United States

Number of Shares Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person with	7	Sole Voting Power 18,021,160
	8	Shared Voting Power -0-
	9	Sole Dispositive Power 18,021,160
	10	Shared Dispositive Power -0-

11 Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person
 18,021,160

12 Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (11) Excludes Certain
 Shares

13 Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (11)
 7.5%/3/

14 Type of Reporting Person
 IN

/3/ Based on 240,306,159 shares of Class A Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share ("Class A Common Stock") of EchoStar Communications Corporation ("EchoStar") outstanding as of July 13, 2001 as reported in the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of EchoStar for the quarter ended June 30, 2001 (the "Form 10-Q"). Considering the 18,021,160 shares of Class A Common Stock held by News America Incorporated ("NAI"), together with the 8,203,760 shares of Class A Common Stock held by MCI Telecommunications Corporation ("MCI"), the percentage of the Class A Common Stock that the Reporting Persons (as defined herein) may be deemed to have beneficial ownership

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would be approximately 10.9%. As reported in the Form 10-Q, there were outstanding 238,435,208 shares of Class B Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share ("Class B Common Stock") of EchoStar. Because such Class B Common Stock is convertible on a one-for-one basis into Class A Common Stock, assuming conversion of shares of Class B Common Stock into Class A Common Stock, the percentage of the Class A Common Stock that the Reporting Persons may be deemed to have beneficial ownership of would be approximately 3.8%. Because each share of Class B Common Stock is entitled to 10 votes per share, the Reporting Persons beneficially own equity securities of EchoStar representing approximately .69% of the voting power of EchoStar (assuming no conversion of the Class B Common Stock).

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13D
(Amendment No. 4)

Pursuant to Section 13(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

in respect of

ECHOSTAR COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

Introductory Statement

This Amendment No. 4 (this "Amendment") to the Statement on Schedule 13D (the "Statement") relates to the Class A Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share (the "Class A Common Stock"), of EchoStar Communications Corporation, a Nevada corporation ("EchoStar"). This Amendment amends and supplements (i) the Statement originally filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") by the "Reporting Persons" (as defined herein) on December 10, 1998, (ii) Amendment No.1 to the Statement ("Amendment No. 1") filed by the Reporting Persons on July 1, 1999, (iii) Amendment No. 2 to the Statement ("Amendment No. 2") filed by Reporting Persons on December 10, 1999, and (iv) Amendment No. 3 to the Statement ("Amendment No. 3") filed by Reporting Persons on September 14, 2000.

On June 24, 1999, The News Corporation Limited ("News Corporation"), MCI Telecommunications Corporation ("MCI"), American Sky Broadcasting, LLC ("ASkyB") and EchoStar consummated the transactions previously described in the Statement. On such date, pursuant to (i) the Purchase Agreement, dated as of November 30, 1998, among ASkyB, News Corp, MCI and EchoStar (the "Purchase Agreement") and (ii) the letter agreement, dated November 30, 1998, among Charles W. Ergen, EchoStar, ASkyB, News Corporation and MCI (the "Letter Agreement" and collectively with the Purchase Agreement, the "Acquisition Agreements"), News America Incorporated ("NAI"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of News Corporation, acquired an aggregate of 6,891,096 shares of EchoStar's Class A

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Common Stock (27,564,384 shares of Class A Common Stock after subsequent stock splits, made effective on July 1, 1999 and October 18, 1999).

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On December 8, 1999, pursuant to an Underwriting Agreement, dated December 2, 1999, between EchoStar, NAI, MCI Worldcom Network Services, Inc. and Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette Securities Corporation, Allen & Company Incorporated, Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, acting severally on behalf of themselves and the several underwriters named therein (the "Underwriters") (the "Underwriting Agreement"), the Reporting Persons sold 11,053,800 shares of Class A Common Stock at \$71.00 per share, less an underwriter's commission of \$1.9525 per share and offering expenses of \$222,658.48, yielding aggregate net proceeds of \$763,014,597.10. In conjunction with the closing, NAI paid approximately \$54,311,000 to EchoStar for amounts due under the Satellite Contracts (as defined in the Purchase Agreement). After such sale, NAI was the direct beneficial owner of 16,510,584 shares of Class A Common Stock (33,021,168 Shares of Class A Common Stock after a subsequent stock split, made effective on March 22, 2000).

On September 6, 2000, the Reporting Persons sold 7,000,000 shares of Class A Common Stock at \$49.00 per share in the open market.

On August 30, 2001, the Reporting Persons sold 8,000,000 shares of Class A Common Stock at \$28.00 per share in the open market.

The descriptions of, and references to, the Acquisition Agreements, the Underwriting Agreement and other agreements and documents filed as Exhibits to this Statement are qualified in their entirety by reference to the complete texts of such agreements and documents.

Item 4. Purpose of Transaction.

Item 4 is hereby amended and restated to read in its entirety as follows:

EchoStar, News Corporation, ASkyB and MCI entered into the Purchase Agreement with respect to the acquisition of 30,000,000 shares of Class A Common Stock, subject to adjustment./4/ Pursuant to the

/4/ The amount Class A Common Stock actually issued was reduced to 8,603,116 shares pursuant to Section 2(a)(ii) of the Purchase Agreement.

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Purchase Agreement, NAI acquired 6,891,096 shares of Class A Common Stock (27,564,384 shares of Class A Common Stock after subsequent stock splits, made effective on July 1, 1999 and October 18, 1999) (the "ASkyB Shares")/5/, and MCI acquired 1,712,020 shares of Class A Common Stock (6,848,080 shares of Class A Common Stock after subsequent stock splits, made effective on July 1, 1999 and October 18, 1999) (the "MCI Shares," and together with the ASkyB Shares, the "Shares"). On December 8, 1999, pursuant to the Underwriting Agreement, the Reporting Persons sold 11,053,800 shares of Class A Common Stock at \$71.00 per share, less an underwriter's commission of \$1.9525 per share and offering expenses of \$222,658.48, yielding aggregate net proceeds of \$763,014,597.10. In conjunction with the closing, NAI paid approximately \$54,311,000 to EchoStar for amounts due under the Satellite Contracts (as defined in the Purchase Agreement).

On September 6, 2000, the Reporting Persons sold 7,000,000 shares of Class A Common Stock at \$49.00 per share in the open market.

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On August 30, 2001, the Reporting Persons sold 8,000,000 shares of Class A Common Stock at \$28.00 per share in the open market.

The Reporting Persons acquired beneficial ownership of the securities for the purpose of investment. Subject to the Acquisition Agreements and the other agreements referenced in Item 6, the Reporting Persons intend to continuously review their investment in EchoStar, and may in the future determine to (i) acquire additional securities of EchoStar, through open market purchases, private agreements or otherwise, (ii) dispose of all or a portion of the securities of EchoStar owned by them or (iii) take any other available course of action, which could involve one or more of the types of transactions or have one or more of the results described in the last paragraph of this Item 4 or (iv) otherwise change their investment intent. Notwithstanding anything contained herein, the Reporting Persons specifically reserve the right to change their intentions with respect to any or all of such matters. In reaching any decision as to their course of action (as well as to the specific elements thereof), the

/5/ Pursuant to Section 2(a)(i)(A) of the Purchase Agreement, ASkyB designated NAI to acquire the ASkyB Shares.

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Reporting Persons currently expect that they would take into consideration a variety of factors, including, but not limited to, EchoStar's financial condition, business, operations and prospects, other developments concerning EchoStar and the satellite business generally, other business opportunities available to the Reporting Persons, other developments with respect to the business of the Reporting Persons, general economic conditions and money and stock market conditions, including the market price of the securities of EchoStar. See Item 6.

Other than as described herein, none of the Reporting Persons have any present plans or proposals which relate to or would result in: (a) the acquisition by any person of additional securities of EchoStar or the disposition of securities of EchoStar; (b) an extraordinary corporate transaction, such as a merger, reorganization or liquidation, involving EchoStar or any of its subsidiaries; (c) a sale or transfer of a material amount of assets of EchoStar or any of its subsidiaries; (d) any change in the Board of Directors or management of EchoStar, including any plans or proposals to change the number or terms of directors or to fill any existing vacancies on the Board of Directors of EchoStar; (e) any material change in the present capitalization or dividend policy of EchoStar; (f) any other material change in EchoStar's business or corporate structure; (g) changes in EchoStar's charter, by-laws or instruments corresponding thereto or other actions which may impede the acquisition of control of EchoStar by any person; (h) a class of securities of EchoStar being delisted from a national securities exchange or ceasing to be authorized to be quoted in an inter-dealer quotation system of a registered national securities association; (i) a class of equity securities of EchoStar becoming eligible for termination of registration pursuant to Section 12(g)(4) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"); or (j) any action similar to those enumerated above.

Item 5. Interest in Securities of the Issuer.

Item 5 is hereby amended and restated to read in its entirety as follows:

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On June 24, 1999, by virtue of the consummation of the transactions contemplated by the Purchase Agreement, NAI became the direct beneficial owner of 6,891,096 shares of Class A Common Stock (27,564,384 shares of Class A Common Stock after subsequent stock splits, made effective on July 1, 1999 and October 18, 1999). On December 8, 1999, pursuant to the Underwriting Agreement, NAI sold 11,053,800 shares of the Class A Common Stock at \$71.00 per share. After such sale, NAI was the direct beneficial owner of 16,510,584 shares of Class A Common Stock (33,021,168 Share of Class A Common Stock after a subsequent stock split, made effective on March 22, 2000). On September 6, 2000, NAI sold 7,000,000 shares of Class A Common Stock at \$49.00 per share in the open market. After such sale, NAI was the direct beneficial owner of 26,021,168 shares of Class A Common Stock. On August 30, 2001 NAI sold 8,000,000 shares of Class A Common Stock at \$28.00 per share in the open market. After such sale, NAI was the direct beneficial owner of 18,021,168 shares of Class A Common Stock. Each of News Corporation and K. Rupert Murdoch may be deemed to be indirect beneficial owners of such shares. Based upon the number of shares of Class A Common Stock and Class B Common Stock reflected as outstanding as of July 13, 2001 in EchoStar's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2001 (the "Form 10-Q"), the shares of EchoStar's securities beneficially owned by the Reporting Persons represent approximately 7.5% of the Class A Common Stock (approximately 3.8% assuming the conversion of the Class B Common Stock into Class A Common Stock) and approximately .69% of the combined voting power of the Class A Common Stock and the Class B Common Stock. The holders of Class A Common Stock are entitled to one vote for each share of Class A Common Stock held, and the holders of Class B Common Stock are entitled to ten votes for each share of the Class B Common Stock held.

To the Reporting Persons' knowledge, MCI is the direct beneficial owner of 4,101,880 shares of Class A Common Stock (8,203,760 shares of Class A Common Stock after a subsequent stock split, made effective March 22, 2000). Based upon the number of shares of Class A Common Stock and Class B Common Stock reflected as outstanding as of July 13, 2001 in the Form 10-Q, the shares of EchoStar's securities beneficially owned by MCI represent approximately 3.4% of the Class A Common Stock

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(approximately 1.7% assuming the conversion of the Class B Common Stock into Class A Common Stock) and approximately 0.3% of the combined voting power of the Class A Common Stock and the Class B Common Stock.

Subject to the Letter Agreement, the Reporting Persons have the sole power to vote the ASkyB Shares. See Item 6.

Except as described above, no transactions were effected by the Reporting Persons in the Class A Common Stock during the 60 days preceding the date hereof.

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SIGNATURE

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After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, the undersigned certifies that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete, and correct.

Date: September 7, 2001

THE NEWS CORPORATION LIMITED

By:

Name: Arthur M. Siskind
Title: Director

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SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, the undersigned certifies that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete, and correct.

Date: September 7, 2001

NEWS AMERICA INCORPORATED

By:

Name: Arthur M. Siskind
Title: Senior Executive Vice President

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SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, the undersigned certifies that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete, and correct.

Date: September 7, 2001

*

K. Rupert Murdoch

* By:

Arthur M. Siskind
Attorney-in-Fact

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Schedule 1 is hereby amended and restated to read in its entirety as follows:

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Schedule 1

Directors, Executive Officers and Controlling Persons of the Reporting Persons

Name	Principal Occupation and Business	Princip
-----	-----	Orga
	Address	W
-----	-----	Em
		C
-----		-
K. Rupert Murdoch	Chairman and Chief Executive of News Corporation; Director, Chairman and Chief Executive of News Publishing Australia Limited ("NPAL"); Director of News International, plc; Director of News Limited; Director of News America Incorporated ("NAI"); Chairman of Sky Global Networks, Inc. ("SGN"); Director of Satellite Television Asian Region Limited ("STAR TV"); Chairman of British Sky Broadcasting Group plc ("BSkyB"); Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Fox Entertainment Group, Inc. ("FEG"); Director of Fox Family Worldwide, Inc. ("FFW"); Director of Philip Morris Companies Inc. ("Philip Morris"); Director of China Netcom Corporation (Hong Kong) Limited; Director of Gemstar-TV Guide International, Inc. ("Gemstar"). 1211 Avenue of the Americas New York, New York 10036	News
Geoffrey C. Bible	Non Executive Director of News Corporation; Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Philip Morris; Director of New York Stock Exchange, Inc. 120 Park Avenue New York, New York 10017	Ph
Chase Carey	Executive Director and Co-Chief Operating Officer of News Corporation; Director, President and Chief Operating Officer of NAI; Director and Co-Chief Operating Officer of FEG; President and Chief Executive Officer of SGN; Director of STAR TV; Director of NDS Group plc ("NDS"); Director of FFW; Director of Gemstar; Director of Gateway, Inc.; Director of Colgate University.	News

Name	Principal Occupation and Business Address	Princi
-----	-----	Organizat
		Employe
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1211 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036

Peter Chernin

Executive Director, President and Chief Operating Officer of News Corporation; Director, President and Chief Operating Officer of NPAL; Director, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of NAI ; Director, President and Chief Operating Officer of FEG; Director of SGN; Director of Tickets.com, Inc.; Director of E*TRADE Group, Inc.
10201 West Pico Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90035

News

Kenneth E. Cowley/1/

Non Executive Director of News Corporation; Chairman of Independent Newspapers Limited ("Independent Newspapers"); Chairman of RM Williams Holdings Limited.
2 Holt Street
Sydney, New South Wales 2010
Australia

Indepen

David F. DeVoe

Executive Director, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and Finance Director of News Corporation; Director, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of NPAL; Director and Senior Executive Vice President of NAI; Director, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of FEG; Director of STAR TV; Director of BSKYB; Director and Acting Chief Financial Officer of SGN; Director of NDS.
1211 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036

News

/1/ Citizen of Australia.

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Name	Principal Occupation and Business	Address	Princi Orga W Emp C ---
----		-----	Bri
Roderick I. Eddington/2/	Non Executive Director of News Corporation; Chief Executive of British Airways plc ("British Airways"). c/o 2 Holt Street Sydney, New South Wales 2010 Australia		Bri
Aatos Erkko/3/	Non Executive Director of News Corporation; Member of the Board of Sanoma WSOY Corporation ("Sanoma"), a privately owned media company in Finland. P.O. Box 144 FIN-00101 Helsinki, Finland		Princi Orga W Emp C ---

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Graham Kraehe/4/ Non Executive Director of News Corporation. News
 c/o Level 20
 News Corporation
 101 Collins Street
 Melbourne Vic 3000
 Australia

Andrew S.B. Knight/4/ Non Executive Director of News Corporation. News
 c/o News International plc
 1 Virginia Street
 London E1 9BN England

 /2/ Citizen of Australia.

/3/ Citizen of Finland.

/4/ Citizen of Australia.

/5/ Citizen of United Kingdom

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Name	Principal Occupation and Business	Address	Principal Organ Wh Emp C
----	-----	-----	-----
Lachlan K. Murdoch	Executive Director, Senior Executive Vice President and Deputy Chief Operating Officer of News Corporation; Senior Vice President and Co-Chief Operating Officer of NPAL; Chairman of Queensland Press Limited; Chairman and Chief Executive of News Limited; Director of SGN; Deputy Chairman of STAR TV; Director of Beijing PDN Xinren Information Technology Company Ltd; Director of FOXTEL Management Pty Ltd.; Director of Gemstar.	1211 Avenue of the Americas New York, New York 10036	News
James R. Murdoch	Executive Vice President of News Corporation; Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Star TV; Director of SGN; Director of NDS; Director of YankeeNets L.L.C.; Chairman of Rawkus Entertainment LLP.	8th Floor, One Harbourfront 18 Tak Fung Street Hunghom, Kowloon, Hong Kong	
Thomas J. Perkins	Non Executive Director of News Corporation; Senior Partner at Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers ("Kleiner Perkins"); Director of Compaq Computer Corporation.	4 Embarcadero Center	Kle

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Suite 3520
San Francisco, CA 94111

Bert C. Roberts, Jr.

Non Executive Director of News Corporation;
Chairman of MCI Worldcom, Inc. ("MCI").
1801 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

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Name -----	Principal Occupation and Business Address -----	Principal Business Organization in Which Employment is Conducted -----
Stanley S. Shuman	Non Executive Director of News Corporation; Executive Vice President and Managing Director of Allen & Company Incorporated ("Allen & Company"); Director of NAI; Director of Bayou Steel Corporation; Director of Six Flags, Inc.; Director of Western Multiplex Corporation. 711 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10176	Allen & Company
Arthur M. Siskind	Executive Director, Senior Executive Vice President and Group General Counsel of News Corporation; Director, Senior Executive Vice President and General Counsel of NPAL; Director of BSkyB; Director and Senior Executive Vice President of NAI; Director, Senior Executive Vice President and General Counsel of FEG; Director of STAR TV; Director and Senior Executive Vice President of SGN; Director of NDS. 1211 Avenue of the Americas New York, New York 10036	News Corporation

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