



## Update on Iridium Satellite Constellation

### Update on Iridium Satellite Constellation

BETHESDA, MD – February 11, 2009 -- Yesterday, Iridium Satellite LLC lost an operational satellite. According to information shared with the company by various U.S. government organizations that monitor satellites and other space objects (such as debris), it appears that the satellite loss is the result of a collision with a non-operational Russian satellite. Although this event has minimal impact on Iridium's service, the company is taking immediate action to address the loss. The Iridium constellation is healthy, and this event is not the result of a failure on the part of Iridium or its technology.

While this is an extremely unusual, very low-probability event, the Iridium constellation is uniquely designed to withstand such an event, and the company is taking the necessary steps to replace the lost satellite with one of its in-orbit spare satellites.

Iridium operates the largest commercial satellite constellation in the world with a fully meshed in-orbit network comprised of 66 satellites plus in-orbit spares. In terms of the impact to Iridium's customers, this satellite loss may result in very limited service disruption in the form of brief, occasional outages. Iridium expects to implement a network solution by Friday, February 13. Within the next 30 days, Iridium expects to move one of its in-orbit spare satellites into the network constellation to permanently replace the lost satellite.

### **About Iridium Satellite LLC**

Iridium Satellite LLC ([www.iridium.com](http://www.iridium.com)) is the only mobile satellite service (MSS) company offering coverage over the entire globe. The Iridium constellation of low-earth orbiting (LEO), cross-linked satellites provides critical voice and data services for areas not served by terrestrial communication networks. Iridium's subscriber growth has been driven by increasing demand for reliable, global communications. Iridium serves commercial markets through a worldwide network of hundreds of distributors, and provides services to the U.S. Department of Defense, and other U.S. and international government agencies. The company's customers represent a broad spectrum of industry, including maritime, aeronautical, government/defense, public safety, utilities, oil/gas, mining, forestry, heavy equipment and transportation. Iridium has launched a major development program for its next-generation satellite constellation, Iridium NEXT, which will result in continued and new Iridium MSS offerings. The company is headquartered in Bethesda, Md. and is currently privately held.

### **Contact:**

Liz DeCastro  
Iridium Satellite LLC  
301-571-6257 (w)  
301-461-3704 (m)  
[liz.decastro@iridium.com](mailto:liz.decastro@iridium.com)

---