



**The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation**

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To All Members of AMSAT

I wish you the very best for the coming holiday season's festivities and I hope you will remember AMSAT and the satellites we develop for your enjoyment.

As I am sure you already know ECHO, our new Low Earth Orbit Satellite is to be launched in the spring of 2004. The scheduled date is March 31 and final development prior to final testing is now underway. Our AMSAT designers and builders are putting the finishing touches to the satellite and you can find the up-to-date description of ECHO in the Proceedings of our recent Space Symposium.

The most expensive part of building and launching a satellite is the launch; all the paperwork that goes with a launch and the transportation of the satellite and people to the launch site, which in this case is in Kazakhstan at the Russian Space Facility. We are fortunate to have an experienced person to look after the satellite on its journey to the launch site and to follow the Department of State export regulations. AMSAT will only be sending one person on this important mission so that cost can be kept to an absolute minimum. However in spite of this frugality, we need \$110,000 to pay for this launch campaign. Since the final payments to the Launch Agency have to be made before the launch, it is critical that we receive your financial support now. Once our ECHO satellite is in orbit, we can then turn our thoughts back to the further development of EAGLE, a high orbit satellite that will have Mode B and other good communication facilities on board.

I'm asking all AMSAT members for your support for the launch campaign. AMSAT will send you a "I Gave ECHO A Lift" pin for all donations over \$25. These are now on order and I hope you will receive your pin before the New Year. As you know, AMSAT is a 501C3 organization. Donations should be tax-deductible in the US but check with your tax advisor.

Meanwhile, let me re-emphasize the need for your support in the ECHO launch campaign. You the members are "AMSAT". Without you, the organization would not exist. Can you meet the challenge of \$110,000 ? I hope that you both can and will. I look forward to seeing many of you wearing the "I Supported the ECHO Launch" pin.

I will close by thanking you in advance for your participation as an active AMSAT supporter.

73 and Happy Holidays

Robin Haighton VE3FRH  
President AMSAT-NA