

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **HUGHES Distance Learning Project in Amazon Wins WISE Award**

*Brazilian initiative wins as best project in innovation category*

**Germantown, Md., USA, October 27, 2009**—Hughes Network Systems, LLC (HUGHES), the global leader in broadband satellite networks and services, today announced that its Brazilian operating unit, Hughes do Brasil, will receive the WISE (World Innovation Summit for Education) Award for the distance learning project developed for the Education Department of the State of Amazonas (SEDUC-AM). The WISE Award, granted by the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, recognizes the best initiatives globally in the area of education.

The Brazilian project provides interactive distance learning over satellite to more than 20,000 students in 700 classrooms across 300 schools in the State of Amazonas, and was one of six laureates chosen from 588 entries. The WISE Awards aim to showcase pioneering, education-related projects at a worldwide level that foster distinctive, cross-educational collaboration. This is the sixth award received by the project.

“We are very proud to have this project recognized once again,” said Education Secretary of Amazonas, Gedeão Amorim. “In May of this year, the IMS Global Learning Consortium awarded the project a “Gold Learning Impact Award” at its annual conference in Barcelona, Spain and it also received an additional award as “Best Student Success Solution,” representing the best technological solution to improve school indicators.”

“The Amazonas project for SEDUC-AM not only represents a major milestone in the history of distance learning in Brazil, it is also an excellent example, with global impact and visibility, of how to harness advanced technology in the educational sector,” said Delio Morais, president of Hughes do Brasil. “We are honored that this important project was selected by the Qatar Foundation and applaud their worldwide educational initiative.”

The Amazonas project utilizes the Brazilian-wide HughesNet<sup>®</sup> broadband satellite service along with IPTV (television over the IP protocol) capability, to transmit classes conducted every day from the media center in the state capital, Manaus, to more than 20,000 students located in rural communities. The technology enables teachers and students to interact as if they were in the same physical space.

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“When we started the program, almost 60 percent of the communities didn’t have regular electricity, so we had to purchase diesel generators in order for the classes to take place,” said José Augusto de Melo Neto, coordinator of the Education Media Center of Amazonas.”The project has been so successful that we are now taking the classes to other communities. The plan for 2010 is to expand the number of classrooms from 700 to 1,000 to reach 25,000 students.”

The six laureates will be honored at the first ever World Innovation Summit for Education, taking place in Doha from November 16 - 18, 2009. Each of the winners will present their projects before an audience of 1,000 leading international delegates and to the event’s sponsor, Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned, during a gala dinner to be held on November 17th.

### **About the State of Amazonas**

Amazonas is the largest Brazilian state in geographical area at 1.5 million square kilometers. The prime feature of Amazonas is its immense forest, which covers 98 percent of its area. SEDUC, the Department of Education of the State of Amazonas, is the government agency responsible for public education affairs within the state.

### **About Hughes Network Systems**

Hughes Network Systems, LLC (HUGHES) is the global leader in providing broadband satellite networks and services for large enterprises, governments, small businesses, and consumers. HughesNet encompasses all broadband solutions and managed services from Hughes, bridging the best of satellite and terrestrial technologies. Its broadband satellite products are based on global standards approved by the TIA, ETSI and ITU standards organizations, including IPoS/DVB-S2, RSM-A and GMR-1. To date, Hughes has shipped more than 1.9 million systems to customers in over 100 countries.

Headquartered outside Washington, D.C., in Germantown, Maryland, USA, Hughes maintains sales and support offices worldwide. Hughes is a wholly owned subsidiary of Hughes Communications, Inc. (NASDAQ: HUGH). For additional information, please visit [www.hughes.com](http://www.hughes.com).

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