

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Hughes and Avanti Sign Breakthrough European Ka-Band Satellite Agreement**

*Hughes to supply network technology for HYLAS high-throughput satellite system and to acquire capacity for managed services*

**Germantown, Md., USA and Milton Keynes, UK, 27 October 2009**—Hughes Network Systems, LLC (HUGHES) today announced a multi-year agreement whereby its subsidiary, Hughes Network Systems, Ltd. will provide Avanti Communications Group plc and its partner channels, eight (8) gateways and 50,000 customer premise terminals to operate over HYLAS, Europe's first dedicated, high-throughput Ka-band broadband satellite to be launched in 2010. The initial value of the contract is in excess of U.S. \$24 million over the multi-year framework agreement.

In addition, Hughes has agreed to acquire capacity on the HYLAS satellite to expand the managed services it provides to major corporations in a variety of market sectors, including oil and gas, lottery, and retail. This builds on the Hughes strategy to deliver broadband Internet access and managed services on the most advanced platforms around the world, including its successful SPACEWAY<sup>®</sup> 3 switch-in-the-sky and recently announced Jupiter high-throughput satellite system. Hughes and Avanti have chosen to work together to build on the competitive advantages that HYLAS will deliver into the European market and the market leading experience Hughes has in delivering Ka-band broadband services in North America, with a proven platform and fully-integrated customer terminals.

Pradman Kaul, chairman and CEO of Hughes commented, "This is truly a win-win relationship. Avanti will break into the market with the combined advantages of HYLAS and our leading, Ka-band satellite networking technology, while Hughes will be able to expand our managed service offerings throughout Europe. Businesses and consumers alike will benefit immensely from this unique combination of strengths."

HYLAS is Avanti's first satellite and has been designed with advanced Ka-band technology to provide high-performance broadcast and data communications services to a wide range of market segments, including broadband Internet access to rural and remote areas underserved by terrestrial networks. The unique characteristics of HYLAS reduce the overall operating costs of satellite services, both in bandwidth utilization and systems hardware.

Hughes, the global leader in providing broadband satellite networks and services, will supply its market-leading HN platform based on the IPoS/DVB-S2 standard with ACM (Adaptive Coding and Modulation), which results in the most efficient utilization of bandwidth.

### **About Hughes Network Systems, Ltd.**

Hughes Network Systems, Ltd. is one of the subsidiaries comprising Hughes Europe, the operating and sales organization in the European market for Hughes. Other subsidiaries are located in Germany and Italy. Utilizing its satellite hub earth station and network operations center in Griesheim, Germany, Hughes Europe provides HughesNet<sup>®</sup> broadband managed network solutions to large enterprises, government organizations, and small businesses throughout the continent, both directly and through a growing family of value-added service providers. For additional information, please visit [www.hugheseurope.com](http://www.hugheseurope.com).

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### **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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