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Note to Editors/News Directors

INTERNATIONAL SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE TO HIGHLIGHT NASA ACTS PROGRAM

Hundreds of members from the satellite communications community worldwide will travel to Cleveland, OH to kick off the sixth annual International Ka-Band Utilization Conference with the NASA Glenn Research Center. The first day is dedicated to NASA's Advanced Communications Technology Satellite (ACTS).

ACTS Conference 2000 will be held on May 31, 2000. It will be a full day of technical presentations and experimenter results followed by an evening celebration and special program to commemorate the conclusion of the ACTS Experiments Program. It is the first day of the three-day Ka-Band Conference being held at The Renaissance Hotel, Tower City Center, Cleveland, OH. The ACTS Conference will take place from 8:30 a.m. – 5:15 p.m. The remaining Ka-Band Utilization Conference will continue through June 2, 2000 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. with its high technology and scientific focus.

The ACTS mission is a partnership among NASA, industry and academia that began in September 1993 to demonstrate the use of high frequency, broadband satellite technologies in a variety of user and service provider applications. After 81 months of operations with well over 150 participating organizations, the ACTS program has proved to be one of NASA's most successful technology transfer achievements. ACTS has set the stage for next generation communications satellites that promise to revolutionize the way people live.

The ACTS Conference involves sessions that highlight the satellite performance, reliability and lessons learned; propagation; advanced applications; and protocol enhancements and interoperability. Also featured will be key the final results of the experiments and operations of ACTS.

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At the ACTS evening ceremony and special program from 7 – 9 p.m., Glenn Center Director Donald J. Campbell will open with a salute to the ACTS Program. NASA Associate Administrator of the Agency's Office of Space Flight, Joseph H. Rothenberg will provide the keynote address. Joining them to share their perspectives on the significance of ACTS technology development for advanced satellite systems are distinguished industry representatives: Dr. Thomas Brackey, Hughes Space & Communications, representing Telecommunications Industry Association; Edward Fitzpatrick, Spaceway; Jeffrey Grant, Astrolink; and Dean Olmstead, SES Astra.

The Ka-Band Utilization Conference has been held in Italy since 1995 and was formed to report the technology advances, specifically Ka-band frequencies, which will be used for the next generation of communications satellites. Since its origin, it has grown to cover various areas of interest, such as systems, experimental results, propagation and fade mitigation, ground terminals and components, architectures and protocols, marketing and financing, band sharing and interference avoidance.

Media representatives interested in attending any part of the event should contact Barbara Kakiris at (216) 433-2513.

For more information on the ACTS Conference, please visit:

<http://kaconf.grc.nasa.gov/Ac2000/default.htm>

For more information on the Sixth Ka-Band Utilization Conference, please visit:

<http://kaconf.grc.nasa.gov>

For more information on the ACTS Program, please visit:

<http://acts.grc.nasa.gov>

For more information on Space Communications, please visit:

<http://spacecom.grc.nasa.gov>

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