

Satellite 2024 Conference & Exhibition

Washington, D.C.

03.19.2024

11:00 AM: How Direct-to-Device Connections Work: Demystifying the Technicalities

The direct-to-device from space notion has grown from a concept to a reality in just a few short years. Not long ago, direct communication between mobile phones and satellites were limited to specific hardware and low data-rate applications. Now, satellite companies are testing and achieving internet connections between satellites and regular consumer mobile phones. But how do these direct satellite-to-mobile cellular connections work? This session aims to clear up the technicalities, spectrum requires and standards, that will make space-to-cell connectivity possible. It will also delve into what it will take to create backwards compatibility (not just working on future devices), and attempt to answer when we will achieve the promise of 5G speed?

Moderator:

- Brian Weimer, Partner, Sheppard Mullin

3:45 PM: Sustainable Satellites and End-of-Life Disposal

Designing satellites for longevity and reusability as well as planning for their end of mission disposal are critical tools for controlling the growth of the orbital debris environment and maintaining safe operations. The rapid increase in the number of satellites on orbit in recent years along with changes in the design and operations of many satellites has led to revisiting existing post-mission disposal rules with these changes in mind. As the FCC recently proposed changing the 25-year disposal requirement for LEO to 5-years for many satellites, this leads to questions about the need for stricter post-mission disposal requirements. Additionally, there needs to be a discussion about how easily new satellites and launch vehicles can accommodate changes. This panel will discuss how satellites can be designed for greater longevity and reusability as well as the current post-mission disposal guidelines, recent proposals on changing satellite post-mission disposal rules, and practical challenges both for implementation and for not implementing changes.

Moderator:

- Jodi Goldberg, Special Counsel, Sheppard Mullin

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