

RE Satellite research

From: Susan Burgess
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2007 5:27 PM
To: Clay T. Whitehead
Subject: RE: Satellite research

The AT&T connection to Telesat came from your initial question:

"When did AT&T's first satellites go up? Telesat 1, 2? In particular, what did they have up before the Open Skies initiative in 1970-71? If they did have satellites up before that time, were they low-earth or geosynchronous?"

Initially I looked up the dates of the Telesat launching, assuming that you were telling me that Telesat 1 and 2 were AT&T's. I interpreted your question to read, "When did AT&T's satellites Telesat 1, 2 go up?" Only after your second email asked me to confirm that AT&T created Telesat did I examine whether there was a connection. Now that I'm rereading your initial question, I see that it could've been asking me "Were the names of AT&T's first satellites Telesat 1 and 2?" Sorry if I misunderstood!

Let me know if you have any other questions.

-----Original Message-----

From: Clay T. Whitehead
Sent: Sat 10/27/2007 3:35 PM
To: Susan Burgess
Subject: RE: Satellite research

So what is the AT&T connection to Telesat that appeared in your earlier email?

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Burgess
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2007 3:26 PM
To: Clay T. Whitehead
Subject: RE: Satellite research

The primary contractor for the Intelsat 1, 2, and 4 series was Hughes - I could not confirm who the primary contractor was for the Intelsat 3 series. The first Early Bird was launched in 1965, not earlier. (Perhaps you know of an earlier version of the Early Bird that was created, but never launched?)

I haven't found any confirmation that AT&T shared the Telesat/Anik satellites.

Maybe you're thinking of TELSTAR? Telstar I, created by ATT, was launched 7/10/62. Telstar II was launched 5/7/63.

Or maybe you're thinking of the COMSTAR series? "In early 1976 AT&T and COMSAT launched the first of the COMSTAR series. These satellites were used for voice and data, but very quickly television became a major user." COMSTAR was also manufactured by Hughes. Does this answer your question?

As far as the "coverage of the AT&T satellites," I'm not sure if this answers your question, but Telstar's typical orbit was 958 x 8222 km, 43.7 deg inclination. I haven't been able to find any other information about its coverage.

Let me know if you have other questions.

Sources:

http://www.tbs-satellite.com/tse/online/sat_telstar_1.html
<http://www.corp.att.com/history/history3.html>
<http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/pao/History/satcomhistory.html>
<http://www.astronautix.com/craft/telstar.htm>

RE Satellite research

Thanks. Do you have the manufacturers? I think all were Hughes except the 4 series. Also, wasn't there an early bird earlier than 1965? 1963? And what was the coverage of the AT&T satellites? The Anik sat were Canadian; maybe AT&T shared them??

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Burgess
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2007 11:31 AM
To: Clay T. Whitehead
Subject: RE: Satellite research

Hi Tom,

You asked me for a timeline of Intelsat's satellite launchings during the 60s and early 70s. I've listed a timeline below. Please let me know if you have any questions.

You also asked me about AT&T's first satellites. Telesat 1 (a.k.a. Anik 1) was not launched until 11/10/72, after the Open Skies initiative. Anik 2 was launched 4/30/73. Both satellites were geosynchronous.
<http://www.astronautix.com/project/anik.htm>

Let me know if this answers your questions or if there's anything else I can do to help with your interviews. My cell phone is working again so you should be able to reach me with no trouble today and tomorrow (though I will be getting my hair cut between 1-2:30 today so I may not answer then). I look forward to hearing about the interviews!

Intelsat satellite history 60s-early 70s
http://www.tbs-satellite.com/tse/online/mis_telecom_geo.html

1965

4/6/65 Intelsat I (Early Bird) - geostationary orbit above Atlantic Ocean - Delta D rocket

1966

10/26/66 Intelsat 2A unusable due to orbit failure

1967

1/11/67 Intelsat 2B (Pacific 1)
3/23/67 Intelsat 2C (Atlantic 2)
9/28/67 Intelsat 2D (Pacific 2)

1968

12/19/68 Intelsat 3F2

1969

2/6/69 Intelsat 3F3
5/22/69 Intelsat 3F4
7/26/69 Intelsat 3F5

1970

1/15/70 Intelsat 3F6
4/23/70 Intelsat 3F7
7/23/70 Intelsat 3F8

1971

1/26/71 Intelsat 4F2

RE Satellite research

12/20/71 Intelsat 4F3

1972

1/23/72 Intelsat 4F4
6/13/72 Intelsat 4F5

1973

8/23/73 Intelsat 4F7