



# Satellite Communications & NCS Services

**Gabriel Martinez**  
Electronics Engineer  
[Gabriel.a.martinez@dhs.gov](mailto:Gabriel.a.martinez@dhs.gov)

May 2004



# NS/EP USER COMMUNITY

- National Security Leadership
- National Security Posture and U.S. Population Attack Warning
- Public Health, Safety, and Maintenance of Law and Order
- Public Welfare and Maintenance of National Economic Posture
- Disaster Recovery

Non-Federal users  
require Federal  
Agency sponsorship



(\* EOP: Executive Office of the President)



## Objective

- **Describe alternate satellite communications**
- **Implementation of satellite communications systems**
- **Risk Analysis of satellite communications**
- **National Communications System (NCS) & Priority Service Programs Overview**

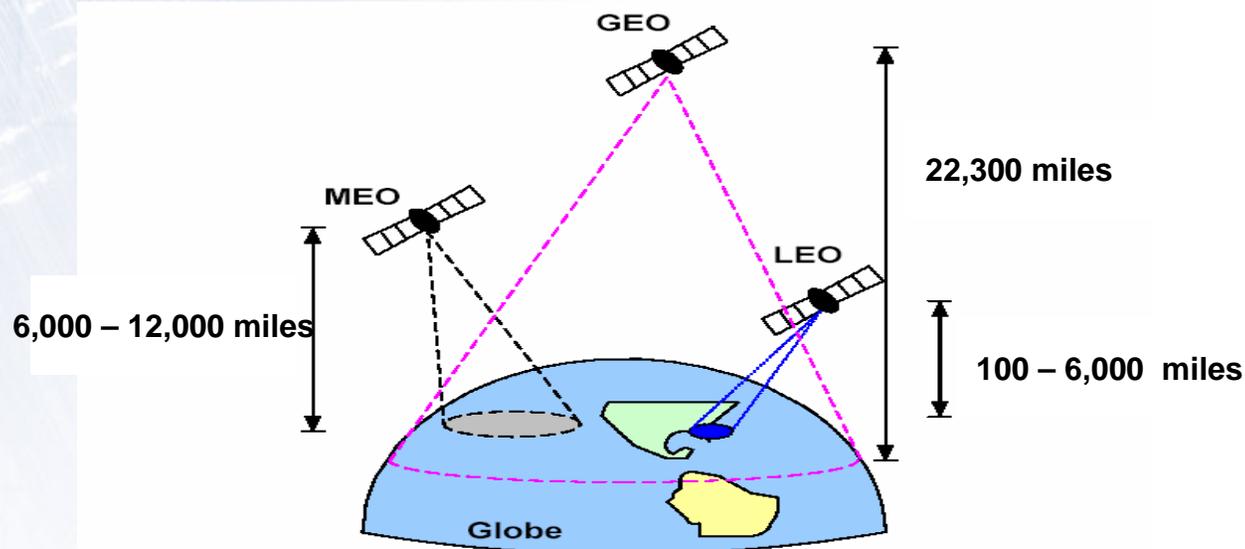


**Describe alternate satellite  
communications**



# Satellite Communications

- Satellite operators use a network of terrestrial and space components to provide services such as telecommunications, broadcasting, remote sensing, and GPS Navigation
- Orbital location (altitude) is a primary factor that drives satellite applications
  - Geosynchronous Earth Orbit (GEO): One satellite covers one-third of the globe, so only three satellites are required for global coverage
  - Non-Geosynchronous {Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and Middle Earth Orbit (MEO)}: Global coverage requires numerous satellites

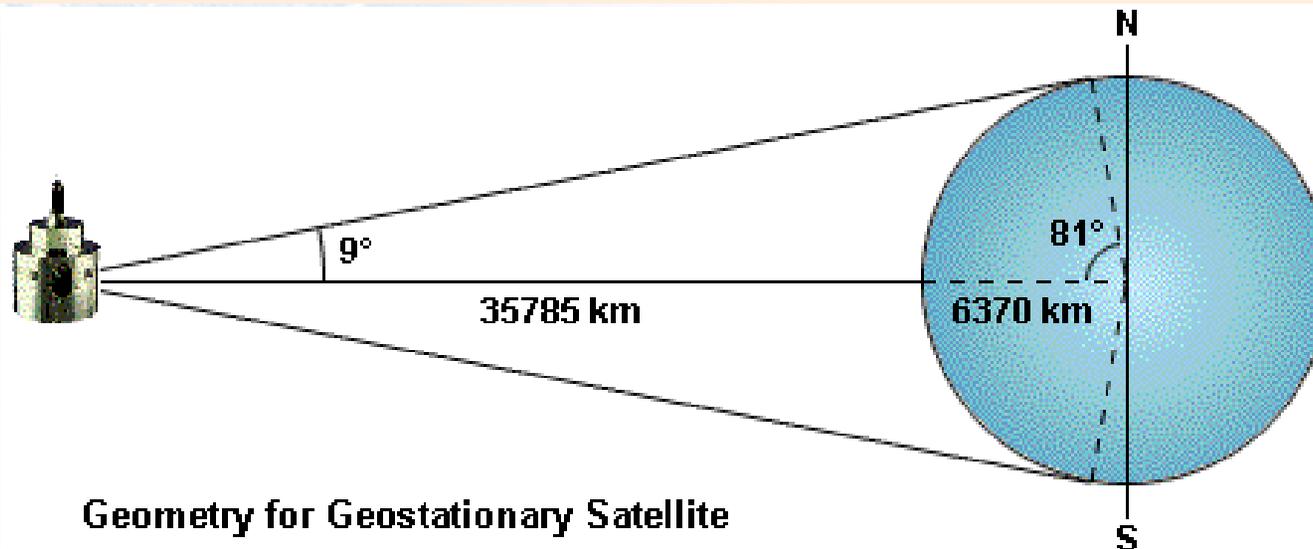




# Satellite Services

**Geosynchronous:** use ground stations that are fixed relative to the satellite

- **Fixed Satellite Services (FSS)**
  - Support voice, data, and video broadcast services; typically used for enterprise services
- **Broadcast Satellite Services (BSS)**
  - Support video programming (e.g., DirecTV) and digital radio services; typically used for wholesale and retail media distribution





# Satellite Services

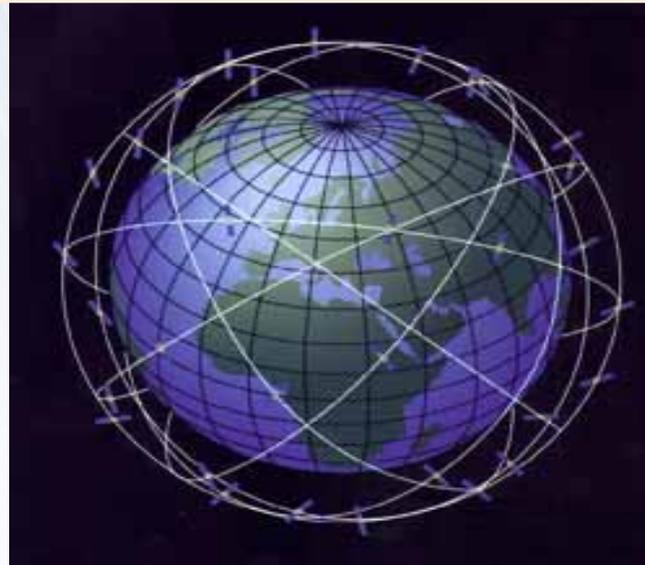
## Non-Geosynchronous (MEO/LEO):

### ▪ **Mobile Satellite Services (MSS)**

- Use devices that are mobile relative to the satellite
- Support voice, voice band data, fax, and Short Message Service; typically used by an individual user

### Emerging high speed data services

- Wild Blue (Internet Services)



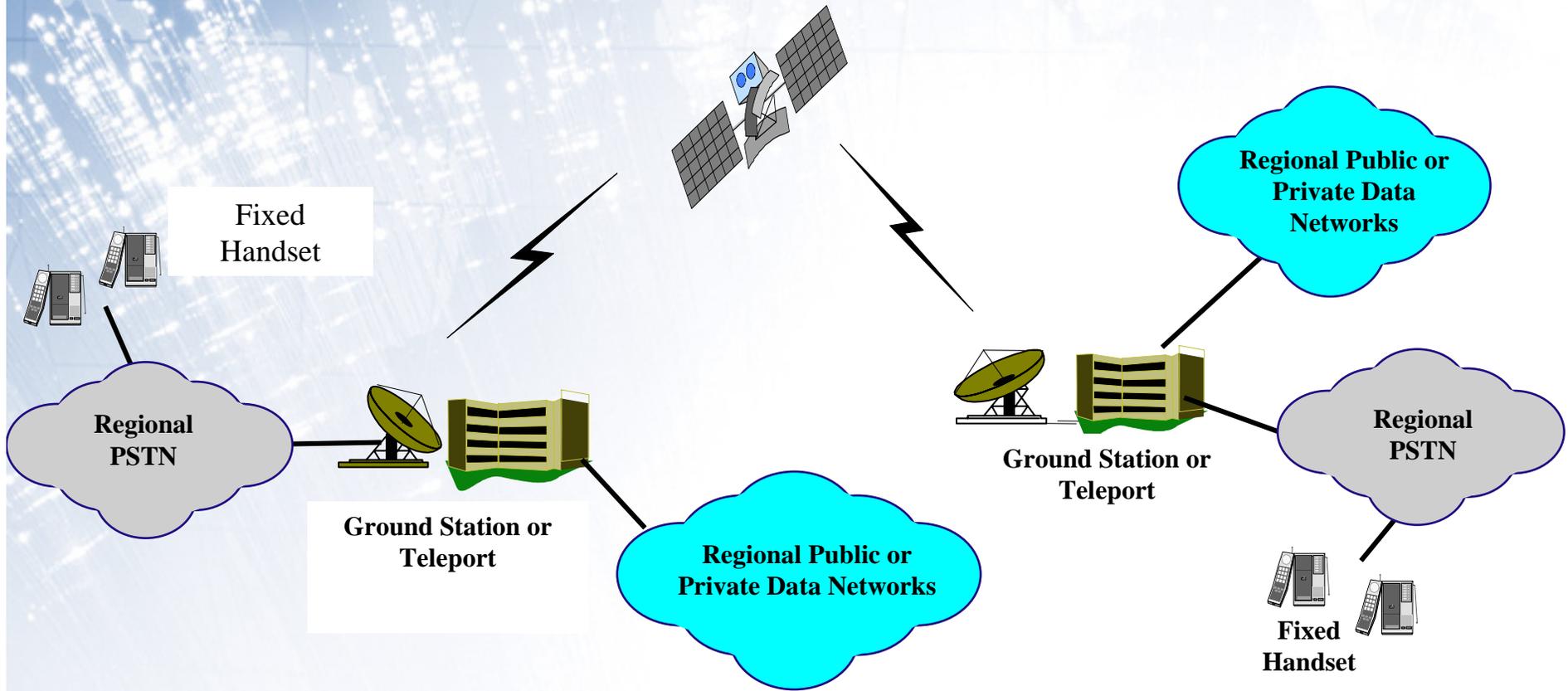


# Fixed Satellite Services

- **Transponder Services**
  - Full or part-time C, Ku, and Ka band; customarily a wholesale service
- **Shared and Dedicated Bandwidth**
  - Voice, data, and video
- **Television Services**
  - Full-time or occasional use television
- **Closed Networks**
  - VSAT or private line networks (one or two way)
- **Point-to-multipoint broadcast**
  - Data and TV distribution



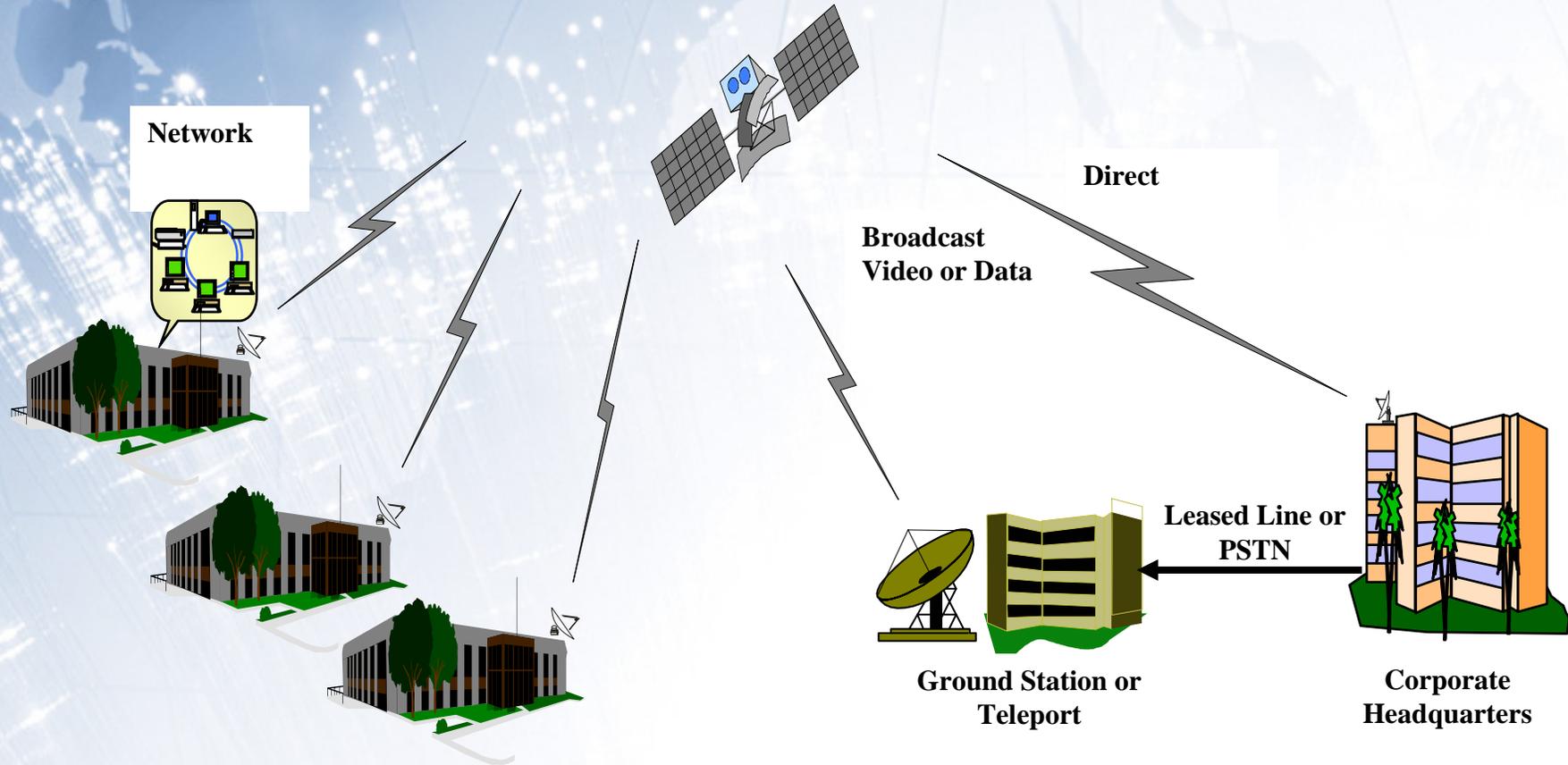
# Voice and Data Trunking Satellite Network



PSTN = Public Switch Telephone Network

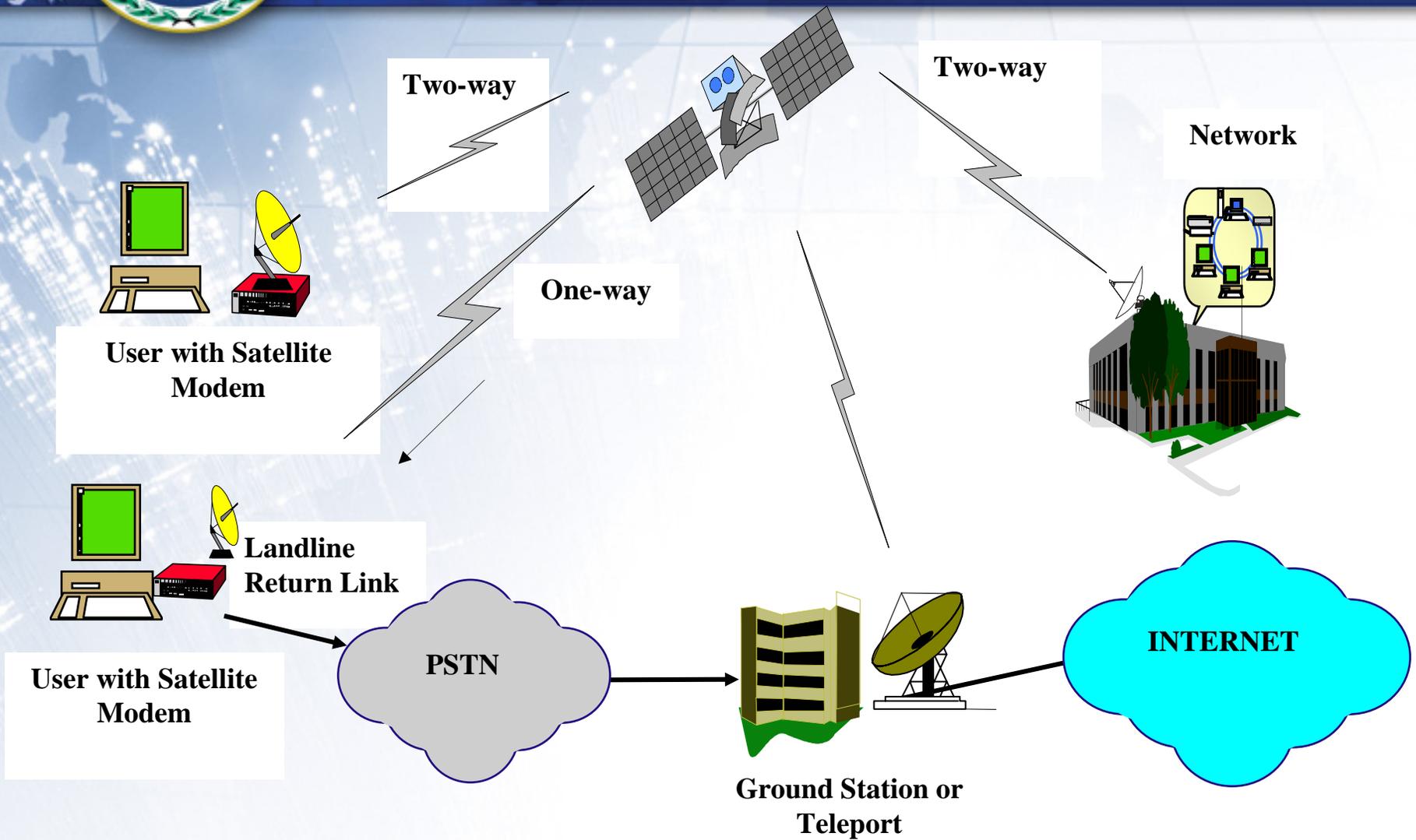


# TV and Radio Direct Satellite Broadcast Service





# Internet Access Satellite Network



PSTN = Public Switch Telephone Network



## Advantages of FSS

- **Remote coverage to locations lacking terrestrial service**
- **Backup for leased lines, frame relay, and other communication services to mitigate terrestrial disruptions**
- **Deployment of closed enterprise / government networks (e.g., USPS)**
- **Simultaneous distribution of large files to multiple sites (point to multipoint) especially when combined with TCP/IP multicast**



## Limitations of FSS

- **Some applications remain dependent on terrestrial infrastructure**
- **Severe weather can disrupt communication**
- **Complex installation and maintenance**
- **High hardware installation costs and recurring monthly charges**
- **Limited bandwidth (e.g., full transponder is equivalent to DS-3 (45 Mbps))**
- **Current technology only allows for preemptive services**
- **Delay of real time applications of .25 seconds one way**



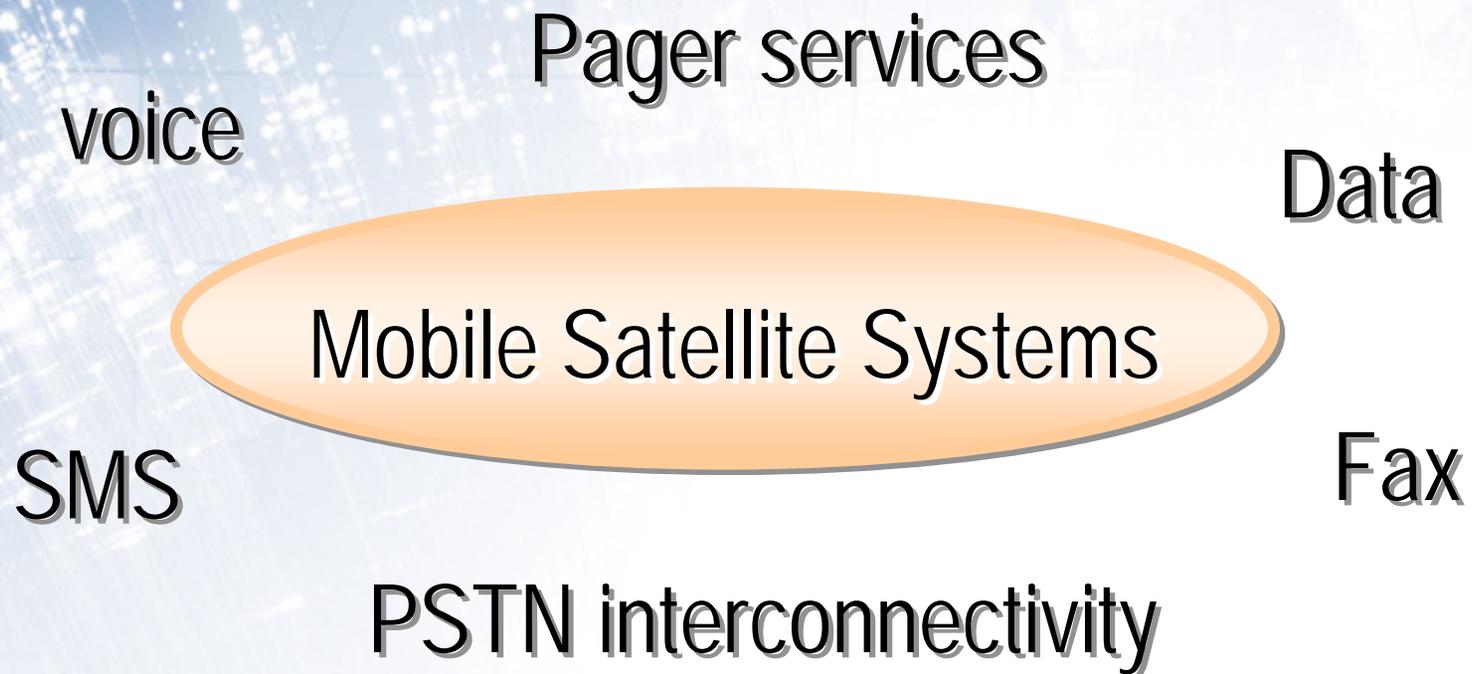
## Key FSS Service Providers

- **SES Americom**
- **Intelsat**
- **PanAmSat**
- **Eutelsat**
- **New Skies**
- **Hughes (DirecTV)**

**Value added service providers distribute integrated services to end users**



# Mobile Satellite Services

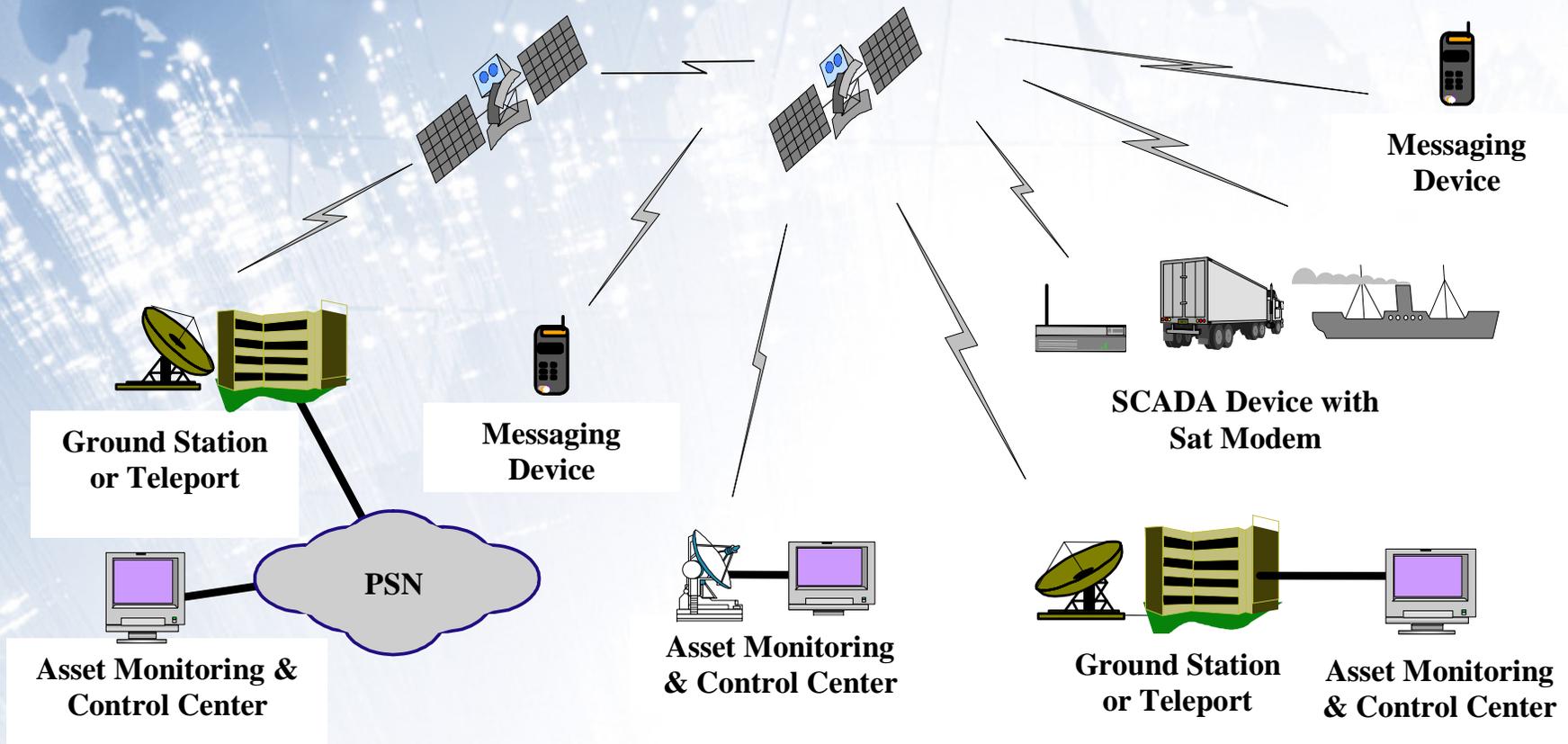


PSTN = Public Switch Telephone Network

SMS = Short Message Service



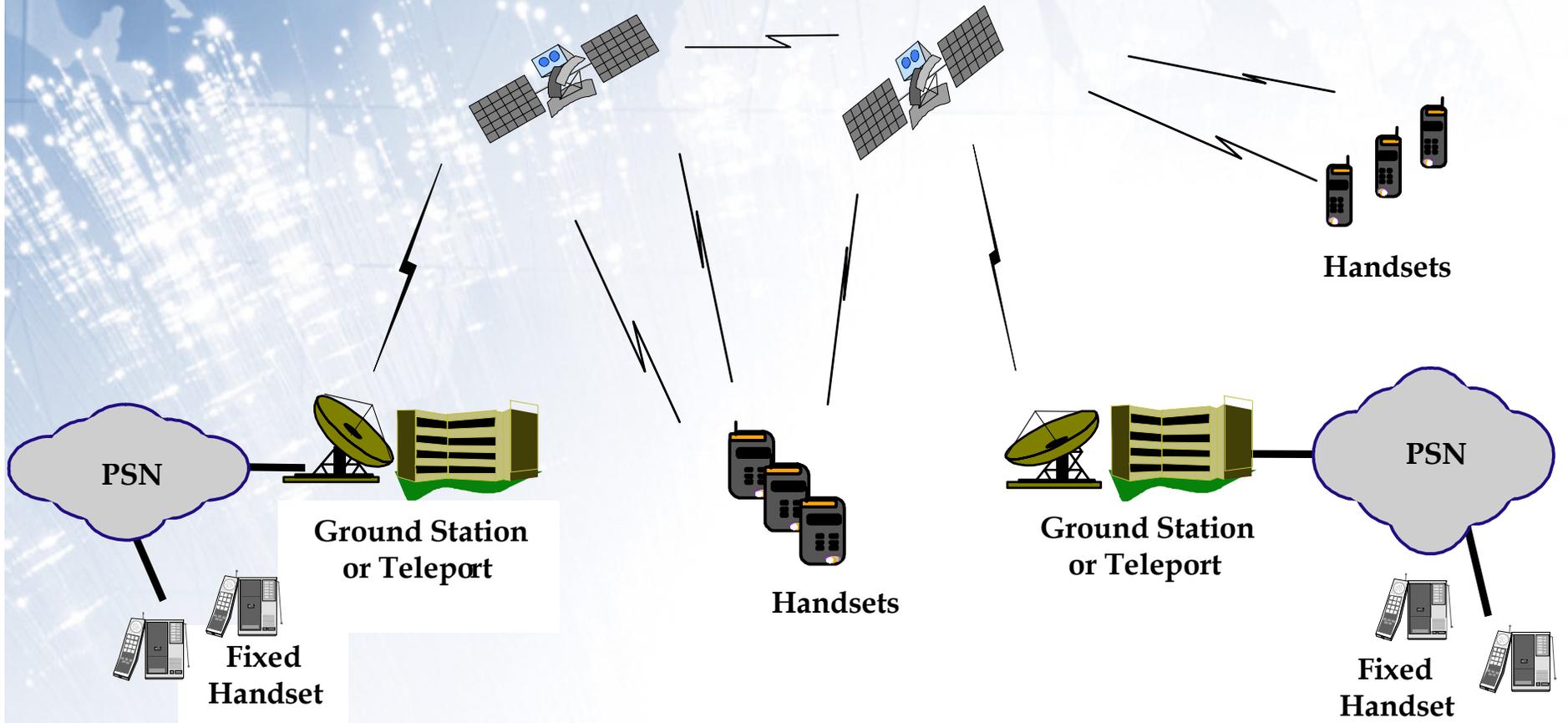
# Mobile Data Satellite Network



PSN=Packet Switch Network



# Mobile Voice Satellite Network



PSN=Packet Switch Network



# Advantages of Mobile Satellite Services

- **The choice when there is no alternative**
- **Personal communications**
- **Highly mobile**
  - **May offer global coverage**
  - **Small low power devices**
- **Independent of local infrastructure**
- **Support for voice, data, fax, and SMS**





## Limitations of Mobile Satellite Services

- **Most applications are dependent on terrestrial networks (e.g., PSN and internet)**
- **Require line of sight (i.e., no coverage inside buildings)**
- **Very low speed data service**
- **Limited network capacity (e.g., number of subscribers)**
- **Expensive compared to terrestrial options**
- **Financial instability of service providers**
  - **Short life span of satellites requires ongoing investment**





# Mobile Satellite Services Service Providers

- **Globalstar**
  - LEO, 12 Gateways, Dual-mode handsets, GMPCS
  - NA Gateways: Dallas, TX; Puerto Rico; BC & ON Canada
- **Iridium**
  - LEO, 38 Gateways, Dual-mode handsets, GMPCS
- **ICO Global Communications**
  - MEO, 12 Gateways, Dual-mode handsets, GMPCS
- **Inmarsat**
  - Oceanic coverage, GEO, and Maritime specialization

GMPCS = Global Mobile Personal Communications Services

LEO = Low Earth Orbit

MEO = Medium Earth Orbit

GEO = Geosynchronous Earth Orbit



# **Implementation of satellite communications systems**



# NS/EP Satellite Applications

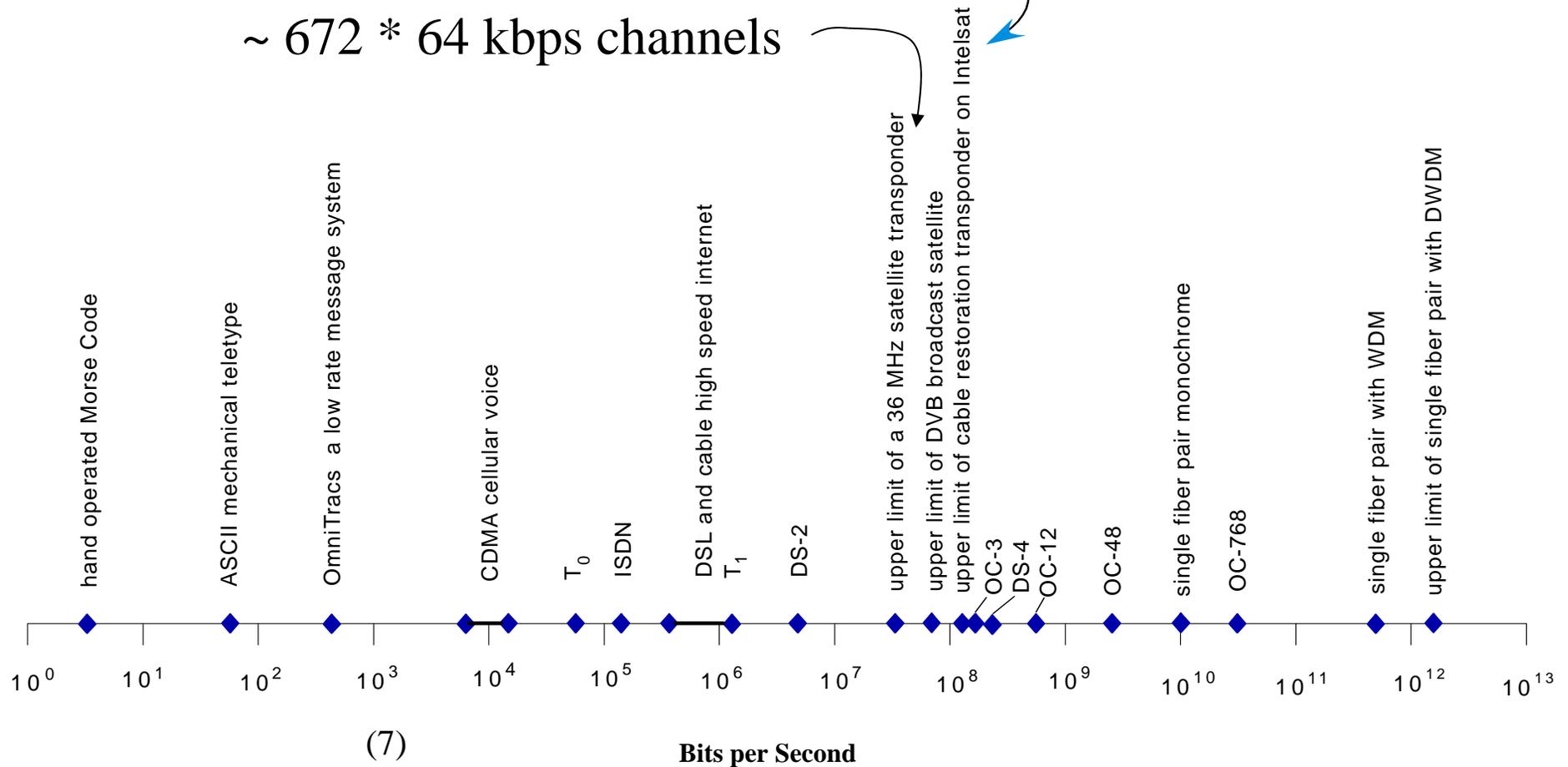
- **Personal communications: Several agencies use satellite phones for emergency communications**
  - Support for Salt Lake City Olympics (Feb '02) using MSS
- **PSN bypass**
  - Continuity of Operation (e.g., HHS) using FSS
- **Long-haul communications transport**
  - Commercial Satellite Interconnectivity (CSI) supported in 1980s
- **Satellites equipments on wheels**
  - Red Cross uses SUVs equipped with satellite links for communications during disasters
- **Specialized VSAT applications**
  - USPS is the largest operator of private Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) network



# Modern Communication Data Rate Spectrum

## The Satellite Bandwidth Barrier

$\sim 672 * 64 \text{ kbps}$  channels



(7)



# Satellite Use in Notification Study

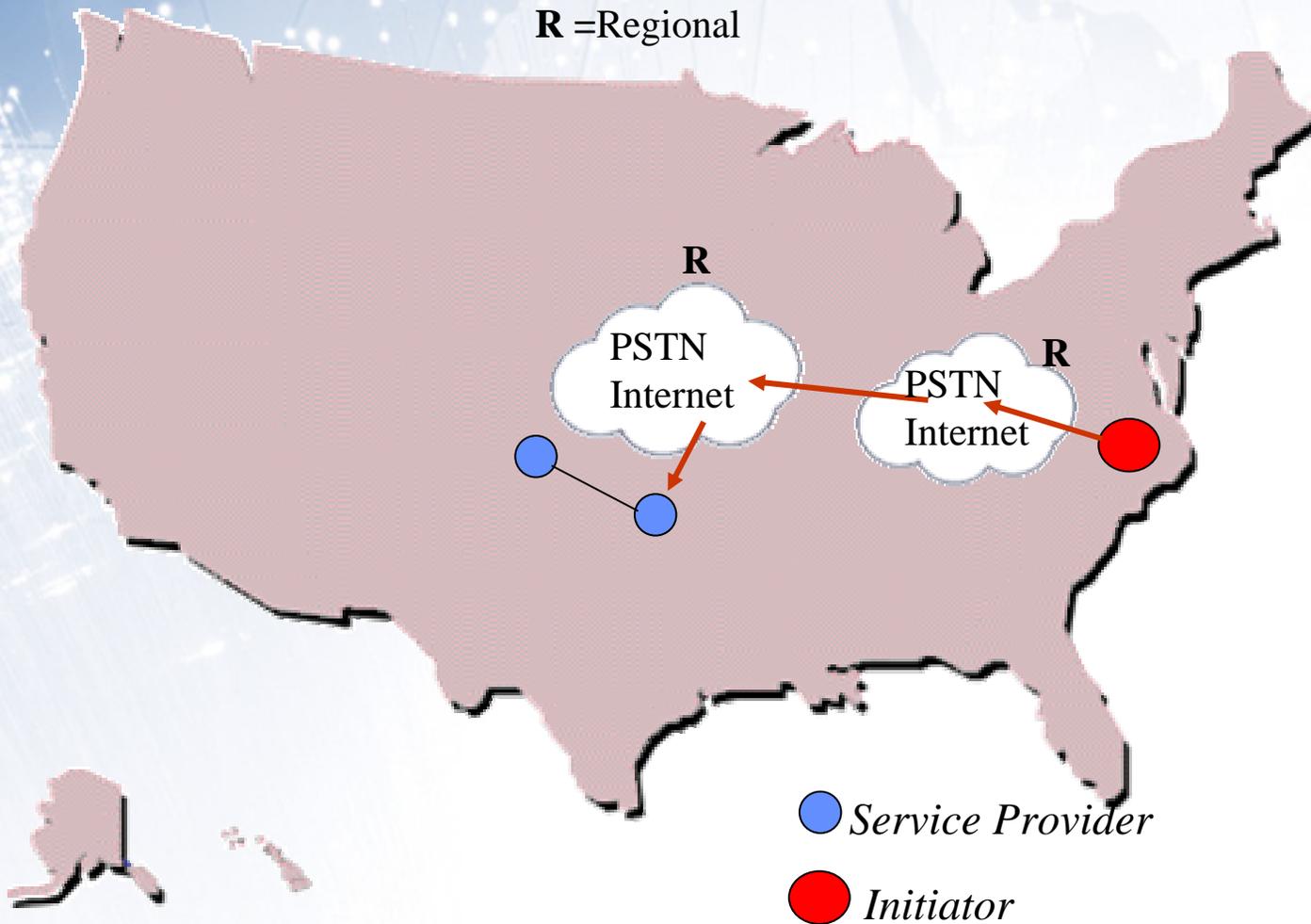
- **Emergency Notification Service Pilot**
  - Capability to Notify 2000 users in 15 minutes
  - Delivery time flexible
- **Channels of communication**
  - Cellular, Landline (Office, Home), Pagers, Email, Short Message Service, Etc.
- **Service Provider**
  - Midwest, Backup 100 miles apart, 24/7 support
- **Notifications**
  - Initiated by Agency's initiators
  - Initiated through secure web-portal, telephone
- **Satellite backup**



# Normal Initiation of a Notification/Alert

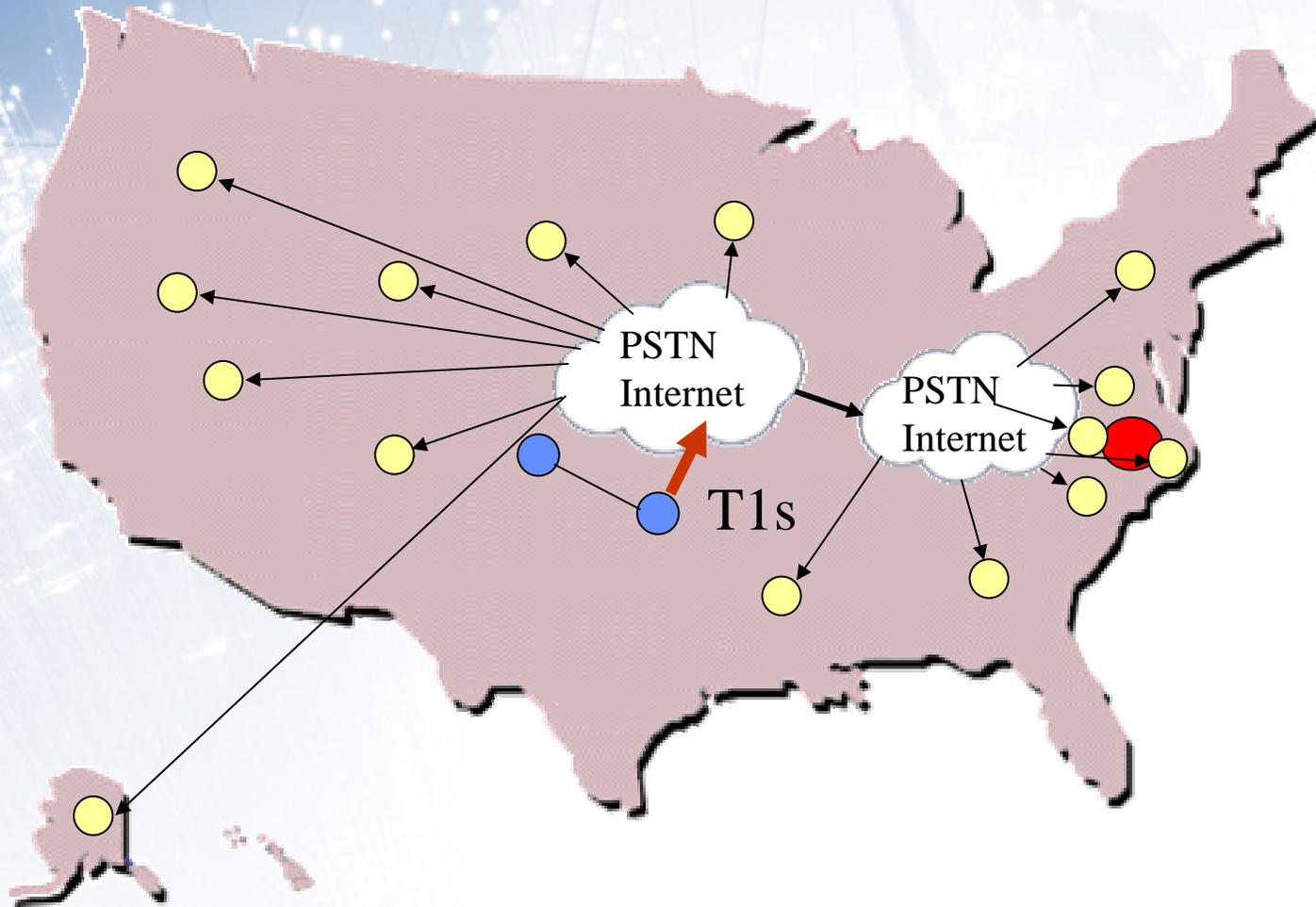
PSTN = Public Switch Telephone Network

R = Regional





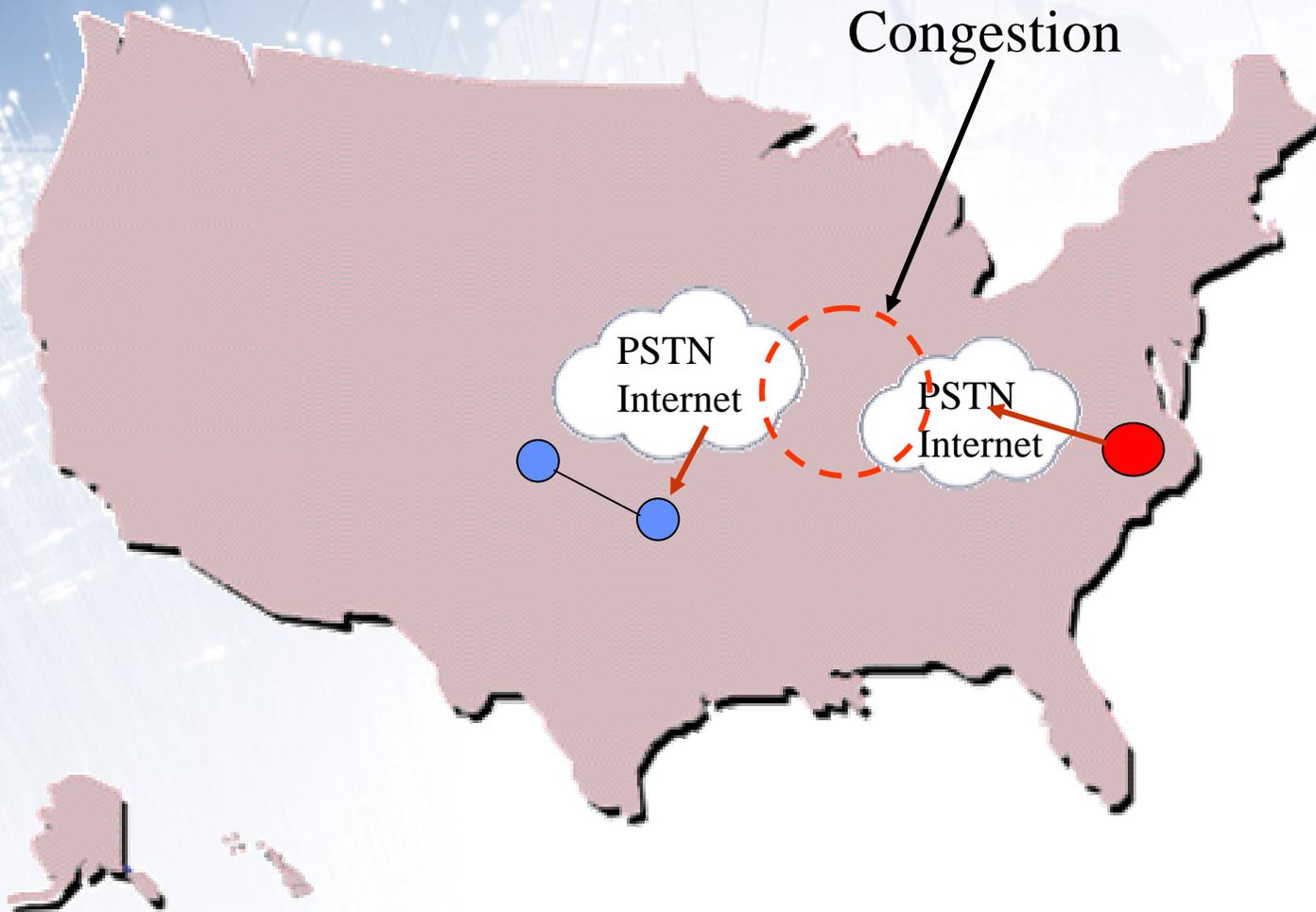
# Notification in Progress



T1 = 1.544 Mbps



# Congested Scenario / Unable to start Notification/ Alerts through PSN





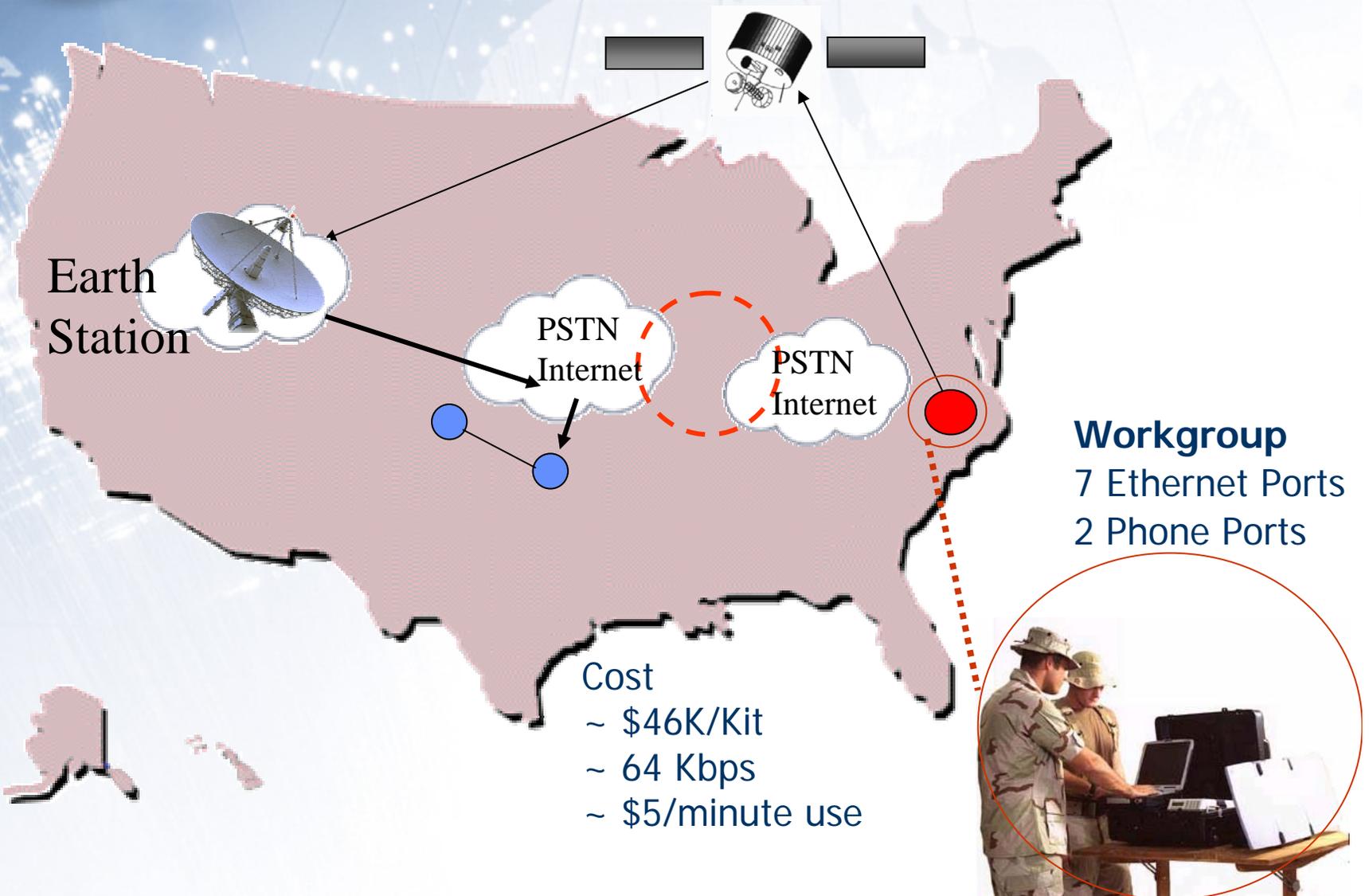
# Alternate Communications



GETS= Government Emergency Telephone Service  
WPS = Wireless Priority Service

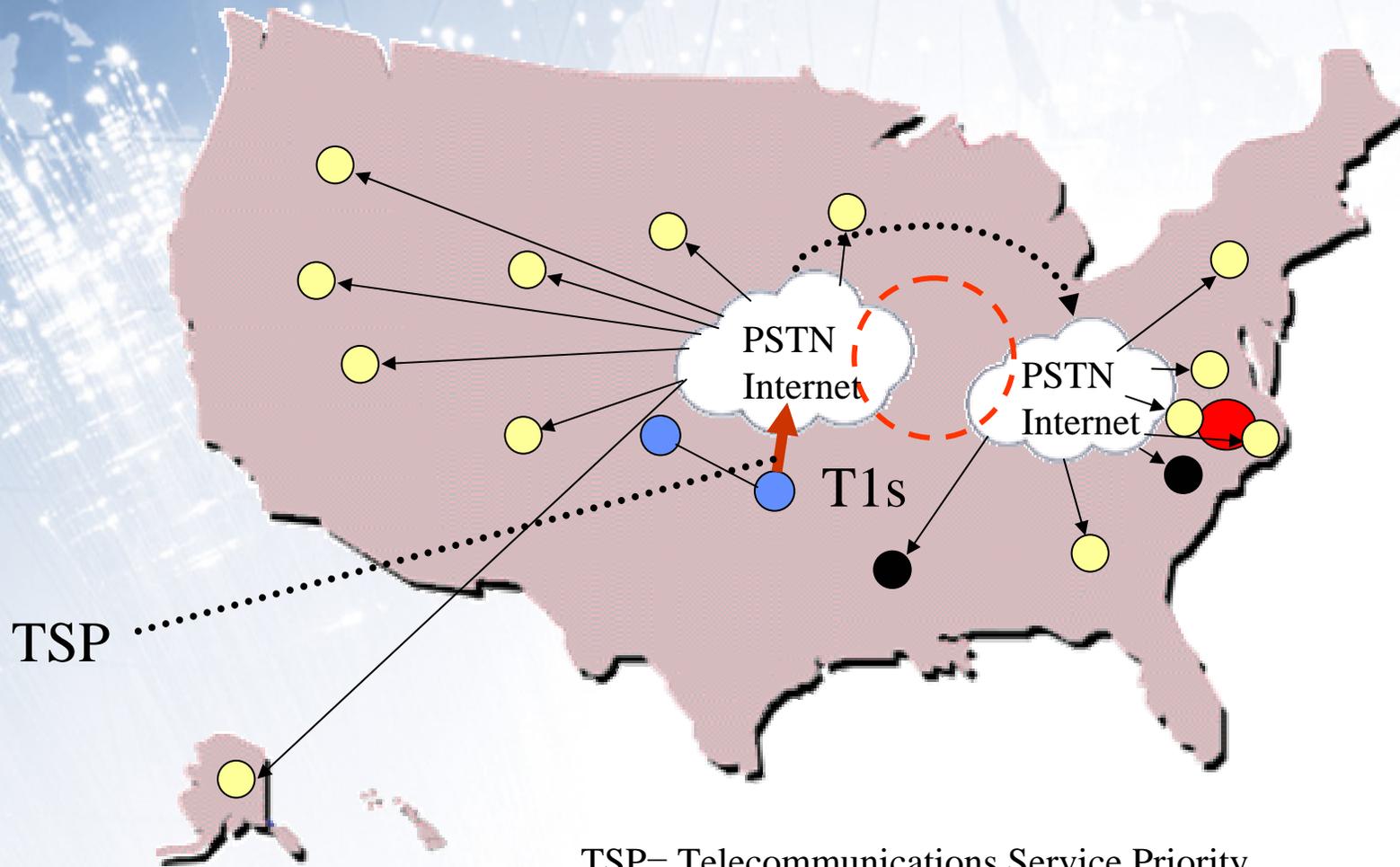


# Alternate Communications





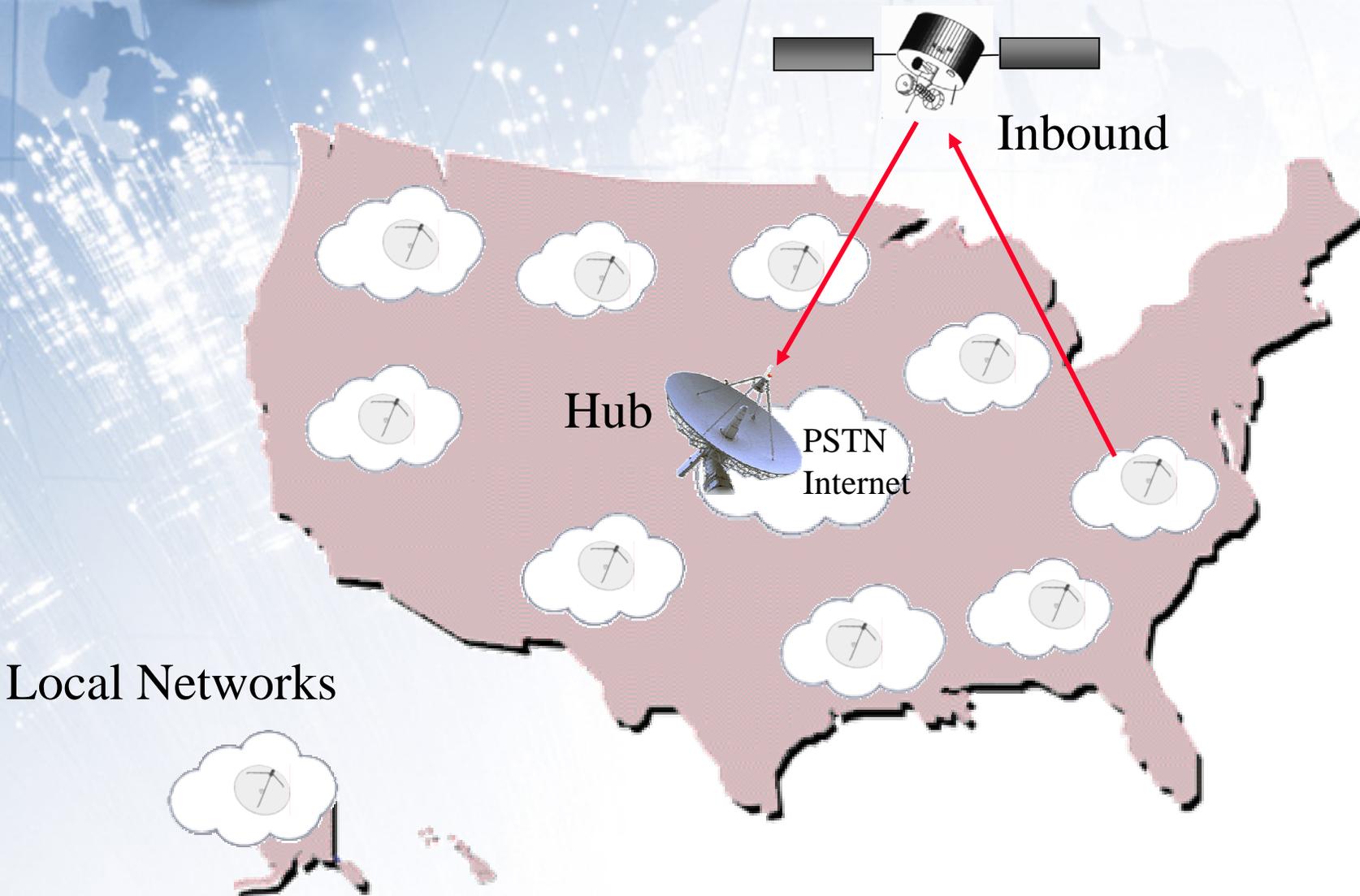
# Notification in Progress



TSP= Telecommunications Service Priority

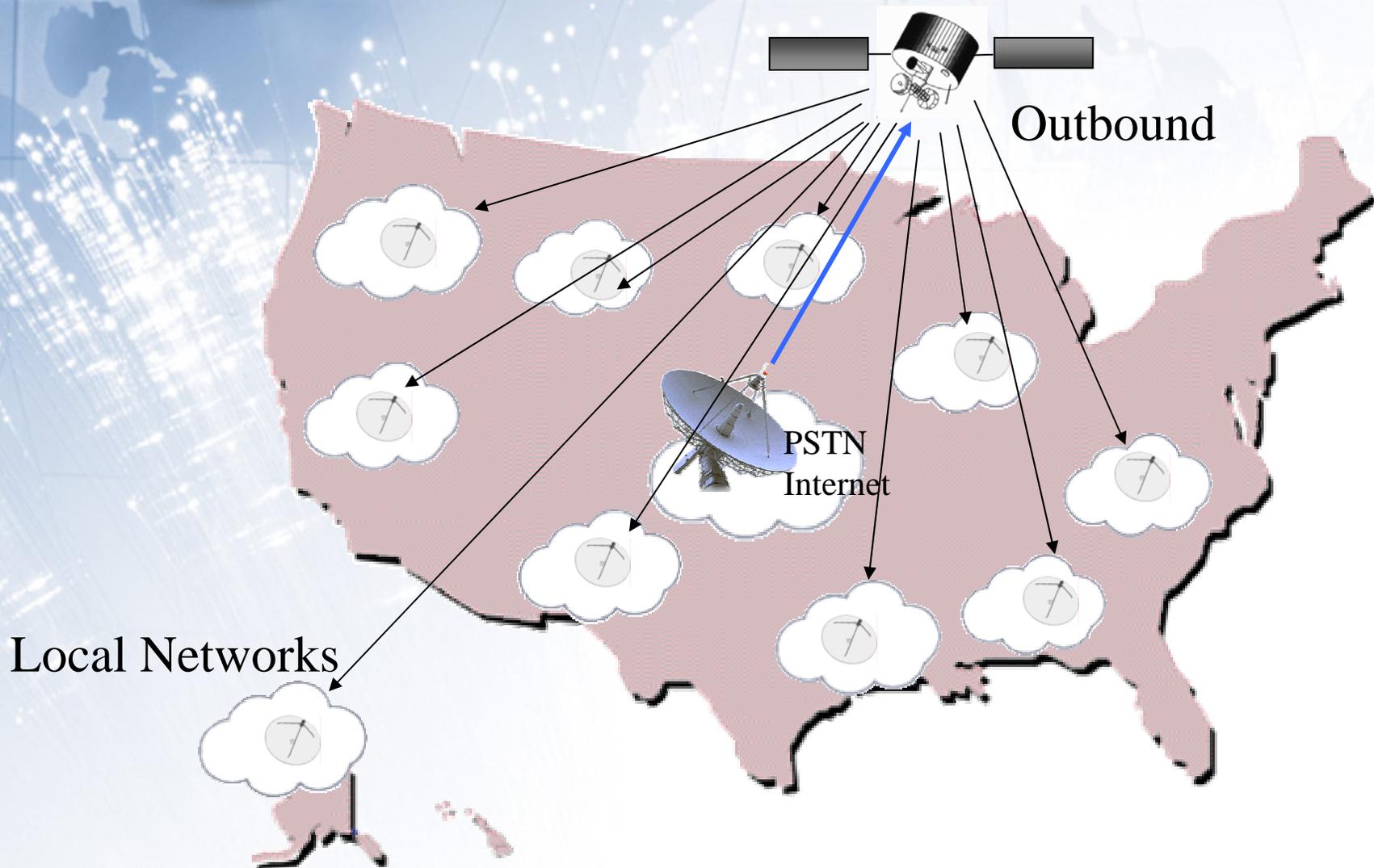


# Alternate Communications VSAT Network





# Alternate Communications VSAT Network





## VSAT Approximate Cost

### APPROXIMATE COST of a VSAT Star Network

#### VSAT, Hub, Satellite Lease, and Licence Costs

# of VSAT Units	30	300	1000
Satellite Lease/Year	1.25 Mhz	12.5 Mhz	42.5 Mhz
Total Cost per Vsat	\$ 443	\$ 360	\$ 309

VSAT Networks, Wiley - Second Edition - by Gerard Maral



# **Risk Analysis of satellite communications**



# Satellite System Risk Analysis

- **Satellite system components**
  - Ground station
  - Signal jamming
    - ◆ TT&C
    - ◆ Data link
  - Terrestrial interfaces
    - ◆ Public Switched Network (PSN)
    - ◆ Data networks
- **Eavesdropping**
- **Infrastructure dependencies (e.g., electric power)**



# Satellite System Risk Analysis

- **Single point of failure**
  - VSAT hub station failure can jeopardize the entire VSAT networks
  - Redundant downlink (VSAT Hub) are technically challenging and expensive
- **Satellite carrier financial stability**
  - Financial distress within satellite sector
  - Industry consolidation
- **Foreign ownership considerations**



## Conclusions

- **Satellites benefit National Security and Emergency Communications during Crisis situations where portability and backup communications are important**
- **Satellites provide alternative communications in areas where terrestrial communications are not available or not cost effective (Rural Areas)**
- **Services offered are comparable to wireline and wireless services including voice, video, and data applications**



## Conclusions

- **Some applications remain dependent on the terrestrial infrastructure**
- **The trend of industry is toward hybrid networks**
- **Industry is working with Internet Protocol Over Satellites**



# **National Communications System (NCS) & Priority Service Programs Overview**



# Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP) Program

The TSP program contains two primary  
and distinctive components:

## Restoration

A restoration priority is applied to new or existing telecommunications services to ensure restoration before a non-TSP program user.

Must be requested and assigned before a service outage occurs

## Provisioning

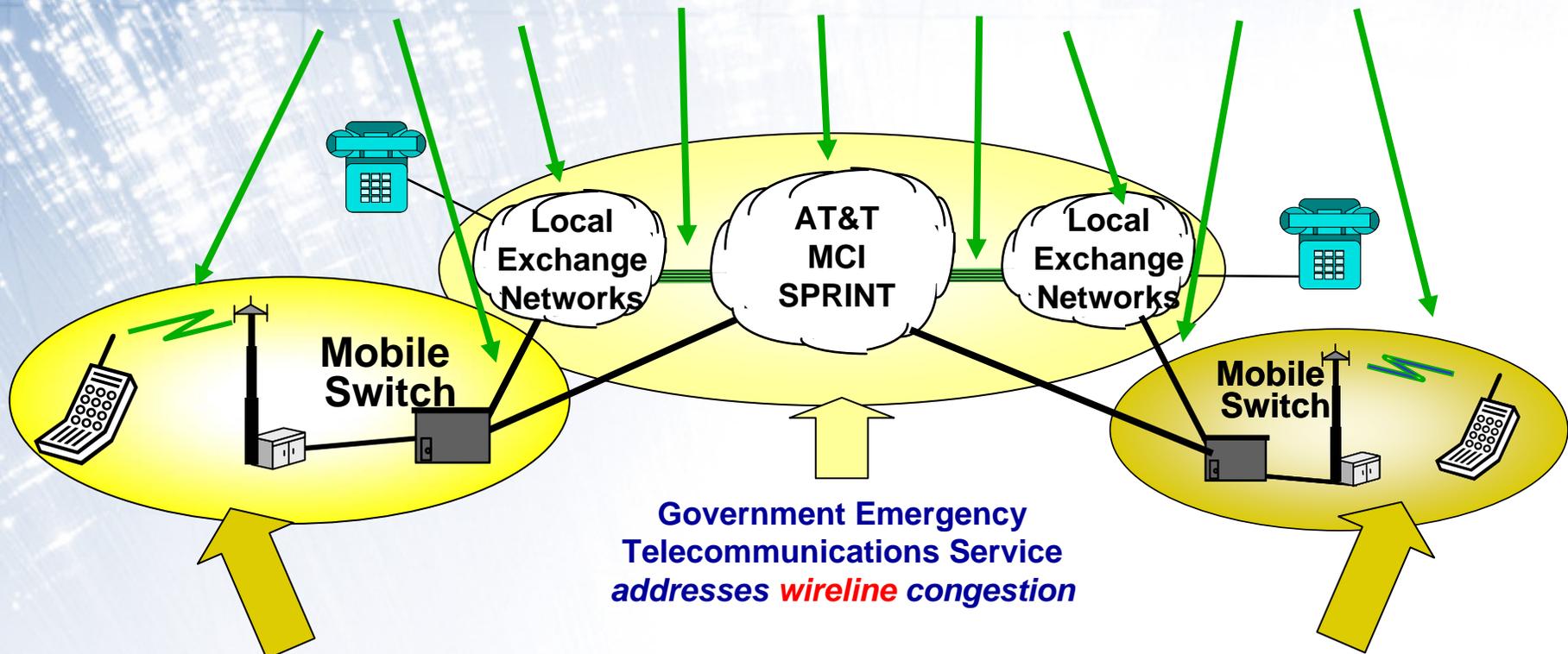
A provisioning priority is obtained to facilitate the priority installation of *new* telecommunications services in a shorter than normal interval.

Cannot be used to compensate for inadequate planning



# The Fundamental Issue: Network Congestion

**Congestion,  
at many points, can block a call !**



**Wireless Priority Service addresses **wireless** congestion at  
call origination and call termination**



# The GETS Calling Card



## Government Emergency Telecommunications Service

**1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2**

**Name:** David Clark

**Organization:** CDC

*Calling cards are in widespread use and easily understood by the NS/EP User, simplifying GETS usage*

**GETS priority is invoked  
“call-by-call”**

*GETS authority is vested in the individual, not the phone number, through use of a calling card approach*

## TO MAKE GETS CALLS

### TOUCH-TONE PHONES

### CANNOT COMPLETE

For AT&T: 1+888-288-4387  
For MCI: 1+800-900-4387  
For Sprint: 1+800-257-8373

### FTS OR DISN USERS

### NEED ASSISTANCE?

Dial **1 + 710-NCS-GETS (627-4387)**

After the tone enter your PIN. When prompted, dial your destination number (Area Code + Telephone Number).

Try a different long-distance carrier by dialing:

For AT&T: **1010+288**  
For MCI: **1010+222**  
For Sprint: **1010+333** } **+1+710-627-4387**

Use normal procedures to get a FTS or DISN dial tone, then dial **710-627-4387**

Dial **1+800-818-GETS (4387)** to get help or report trouble at any time. You can also obtain user assistance through GETS. When prompted for your destination number dial **703-818-GETS**.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PROPERTY. If found, return to OMNCS (N2), 701 South Courthouse Road, Arlington, VA 22204-2198. WARNING: For official use only by authorized personnel.



## What is WPS?

- **An enhancement to basic wireless service that allows your National Security/Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) calls to queue for priority service in order to complete the call**
- **Together with GETS, WPS dramatically improves “end-to-end” call completion during emergencies**
- **Designed for 95% call completion at FOC**

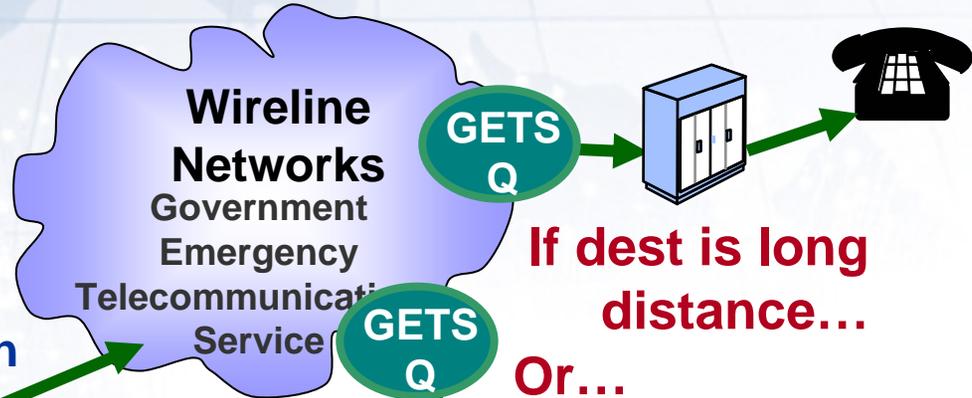


# Full Operating Capability

Dial \* 272 +  
dest. # + SEND

Congestion: No  
radio channel

Call gets to  
congested switch

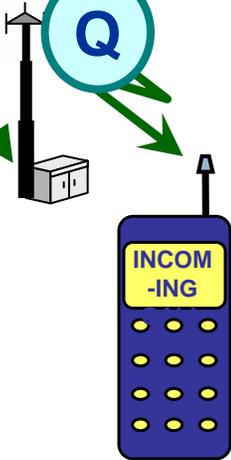


If dest is long  
distance...  
Or...

**End-to-End  
Priority  
Treatment**



If dest is mobile in  
another MSC...



If dest is local mobile...





**[WWW.NCS.GOV](http://WWW.NCS.GOV)**