

DISH Network CORP
Form DEF 14A
March 23, 2012

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant X

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant O

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
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DISH Network Corporation
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

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March 23, 2012

DEAR SHAREHOLDER:

It is a pleasure for me to extend to you an invitation to attend the 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of DISH Network Corporation. The Annual Meeting will be held on May 2, 2012, at 1:00 p.m., local time, at DISH Network's headquarters located at 9601 S. Meridian Blvd., Englewood, Colorado 80112.

The enclosed Notice of 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders and Proxy Statement describe the proposals to be considered and voted upon at the Annual Meeting. During the Annual Meeting, we will also review DISH Network's operations and other items of general interest regarding the corporation.

We hope that all shareholders will be able to attend the Annual Meeting. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting personally, it is important that you be represented. To ensure that your vote will be received and counted, please vote electronically via the Internet, by mail or telephone, by following the instructions included with your proxy card.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and senior management, I would like to express our appreciation for your support and interest in DISH Network. I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting.

CHARLES W. ERGEN
Chairman of the Board of Directors

NOTICE OF 2012 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF DISH NETWORK CORPORATION:

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders of DISH Network Corporation will be held on May 2, 2012, at 1:00 p.m., local time, at our headquarters located at 9601 S. Meridian Blvd., Englewood, Colorado 80112, for the following purposes:

1. To elect nine directors to our Board of Directors;
2. To ratify the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2012; and
3. To consider and act upon any other business that may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment or postponement of the Annual Meeting.

You may vote on these matters in person or by proxy. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we ask that you vote by one of the following methods to ensure that your shares will be represented at the meeting in accordance with your wishes:

- Vote electronically through the Internet or by telephone, by following the instructions included with your proxy card; or
- Vote by mail, by completing and returning the enclosed proxy card in the enclosed addressed stamped envelope.

Only shareholders of record at the close of business on March 7, 2012 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting or any adjournment of the meeting. This proxy statement and proxy card were either made available to you over the Internet or mailed to you beginning on or about March 23, 2012.

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By Order of the Board of Directors

R. STANTON DODGE
*Executive Vice President, General Counsel
and Secretary*

March 23, 2012

9601 S. Meridian Blvd. • Englewood, Colorado 80112 • Tel: (303) 723-1000 • Fax: (303) 723-1999

PROXY STATEMENT
OF
DISH NETWORK CORPORATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

This Proxy Statement and the accompanying proxy card are being furnished to you in connection with the 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the Annual Meeting) of DISH Network Corporation (DISH Network, we, us, our or the Corporation). The Annual Meeting will be held May 2, 2012, at 1:00 p.m., local time, at our headquarters located at 9601 S. Meridian Blvd., Englewood, Colorado 80112.

This Proxy Statement is being sent or provided on or about March 23, 2012, to holders of record at the close of business on March 7, 2012 of our Class A Common Stock (the Class A Shares) and Class B Common Stock (the Class B Shares).

Your proxy is being solicited by our Board of Directors (the Board or Board of Directors). It may be revoked by written notice given to our Secretary at our headquarters at any time before being voted. You may also revoke your proxy by submitting a proxy with a later date or by voting in person at the Annual Meeting. To vote electronically through the Internet or by telephone, please refer to the instructions included with the proxy card. To vote by mail, please complete the accompanying proxy card and return it to us as instructed in the proxy card. Votes submitted electronically through the Internet or by telephone or mail must be received by 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on May 1, 2012. Submitting your vote electronically through the Internet or by telephone or mail will not affect your right to vote in person, if you choose to do so. Proxies that are properly delivered to us and not revoked before the closing of the polls during the Annual Meeting will be voted for the proposals described in this Proxy Statement in accordance with the instructions set forth on the proxy card. The Board is currently not aware of any matters proposed to be presented at the Annual Meeting other than the election of nine directors and the ratification of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2012. If any other matter is properly presented at the Annual Meeting, the persons named in the accompanying proxy card will have discretionary authority to vote on that matter. Your presence at the Annual Meeting does not of itself revoke your proxy.

Attendance at the Meeting

All of our shareholders of record at the close of business on March 7, 2012, or their duly appointed proxies, may attend the Annual Meeting. Seating is limited, however, and admission to the Annual Meeting will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration and seating will begin at 12:30 p.m., local time, and the Annual Meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m., local time. Each shareholder may be asked to present a valid government issued photo identification confirming his or her identity as a shareholder of record, such as a driver s license or passport. Cameras, recording devices, and other electronic devices will not be permitted at the Annual Meeting.

If your shares are held by a broker, bank, or other nominee (often referred to as holding in street name) and you desire to attend the Annual Meeting, you will need to bring a legal proxy or a copy of a brokerage or bank statement reflecting your share ownership as of the record date, March 7, 2012. All shareholders must check in at the registration desk at the Annual Meeting.

Securities Entitled to Vote

Only shareholders of record at the close of business on March 7, 2012 are entitled to notice of the Annual Meeting. Such shareholders may vote shares held by them at the close of business on March 7, 2012 at the Annual Meeting. At the close of business on March 7, 2012, 208,903,746 Class A Shares and 238,435,208 Class B Shares were outstanding. Each of the Class A Shares is entitled to one vote per share on each proposal to be considered by our shareholders. Each of the Class B Shares is entitled to ten votes per share on each proposal to be considered by our shareholders.

Vote Required

In accordance with our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation (our Articles of Incorporation), the presence at the Annual Meeting, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the total voting power of all classes of our voting stock taken together shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual Meeting.

The affirmative vote of a plurality of the total votes cast for directors at the Annual Meeting is necessary to elect a director. No cumulative voting is permitted. The nine nominees receiving the highest number of votes cast for will be elected.

The affirmative vote of a majority of the voting power represented at the Annual Meeting is required to approve the ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm. The total number of votes cast for will be counted for purposes of determining whether sufficient affirmative votes have been cast to approve the ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm.

Abstentions from voting on a proposal by a shareholder at the Annual Meeting, as well as broker nonvotes, will be considered for purposes of determining the number of total votes present at the Annual Meeting. Abstentions will have the same effect as votes against the ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm. However, abstentions will not be counted as against or for the election of directors. Broker nonvotes will not be considered in determining the election of directors or the ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm.

Charles W. Ergen, our Chairman, currently possesses approximately 90.4% of the total voting power. Please see Equity Security Ownership below. Mr. Ergen has indicated his intention to vote: (1) for the election of each of the nine director nominees and (2) for the ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm. Accordingly, the election of each of the director nominees and the ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm are assured notwithstanding a contrary vote by any or all shareholders other than Mr. Ergen.

Householding

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We have adopted a procedure approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) called householding. Under this procedure, service providers that deliver our communications to shareholders may deliver a single copy of our Annual Report, Proxy Statement or Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials to multiple shareholders sharing the same address, unless one or more of these shareholders notifies us that they wish to continue receiving individual copies. Shareholders who participate in householding will continue to receive separate proxy cards. This householding procedure will reduce our printing costs and postage fees.

We will deliver promptly upon written or oral request a separate copy of our Annual Report, Proxy Statement or Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, as applicable, to a shareholder at a shared address to which a single copy of the documents was delivered. Please notify Broadridge Financial Solutions at 51 Mercedes Way, Edgewood, NY 11717 or (800) 542-1061 to receive a separate copy of our Annual Report, Proxy Statement or Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials.

If you are eligible for householding, but you and other shareholders with whom you share an address currently receive multiple copies of our annual reports, proxy statements and/or Notices of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, or if you hold stock in more than one account, and in either case you wish to receive only a single copy of our Annual Report, Proxy Statement or Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials for your household, please contact Broadridge Financial Solutions at the address provided above.

Our Mailing Address

Our mailing address is 9601 S. Meridian Blvd., Englewood, Colorado 80112.

PROPOSAL NO. 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Nominees

Our shareholders will elect a board of nine directors at the Annual Meeting. Each of the directors is expected to hold office until the next annual meeting of our shareholders or until his or her respective successor shall be duly elected and qualified. The affirmative vote of a plurality of the total votes cast for directors is necessary to elect a director. This means that the nine nominees who receive the most votes will be elected to the nine open directorships even if they get less than a majority of the votes cast. Each nominee has consented to his or her nomination and has advised us that he or she intends to serve if elected. If at the time of the meeting one or more of the nominees have become unable to serve: (i) shares represented by proxies will be voted for the remaining nominees and for any substitute nominee or nominees; or (ii) the Board of Directors may, in accordance with our bylaws, reduce the size of the Board of Directors or may leave a vacancy until a nominee is identified.

The nominees for director are as follows:

Name	Age	First Became Director	Position with the Company
Joseph P. Clayton	62	2011	Director, President and Chief Executive Officer
James DeFranco	59	1980	Director and Executive Vice President
Cantey M. Ergen	56	2001	Director and Senior Advisor
Charles W. Ergen	59	1980	Chairman
Steven R. Goodbarn	54	2002	Director
Gary S. Howard	61	2005	Director
David K. Moskowitz	53	1998	Director and Senior Advisor
Tom A. Ortolf	61	2005	Director
Carl E. Vogel	54	2005	Director and Senior Advisor

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The following sets forth the business experience of each of the nominees over the last five years:

Joseph P. Clayton. Mr. Clayton has served on the Board since June 2011, and currently serves as our President and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Clayton previously served on the Board of Directors of EchoStar Corporation (EchoStar) from October 2008 until June 2011. Mr. Clayton served as Chairman of Sirius Satellite Radio Inc. (Sirius) from November 2004 through July 2008 and served as Chief Executive Officer of Sirius from November 2001 through November 2004. Prior to joining Sirius, Mr. Clayton served as President of Global Crossing North America, as President and Chief Executive Officer of Frontier Corporation and as Executive Vice President, Marketing and Sales - Americas and Asia, of Thomson S.A. Mr. Clayton is also currently serving on the Board of Directors of Transcend Services, Inc. The Board concluded that Mr. Clayton should continue to serve on the Board due to, among other things, his experience in the radio broadcast and telecommunications industries, including his prior service with Sirius and Frontier Corporation.

James DeFranco. Mr. DeFranco is one of our Executive Vice Presidents and has been one of our vice presidents and a member of the Board since our formation. During the past five years he has held various executive officer and director positions with DISH Network and our subsidiaries. Mr. DeFranco co-founded DISH Network with Charles W. Ergen and Cantey Ergen in 1980. The Board concluded that Mr. DeFranco should continue to serve on the Board due to, among other things, his knowledge of DISH Network since its formation, particularly in sales and marketing.

Cantey M. Ergen. Mrs. Ergen has served on the Board since May 2001, is currently a Senior Advisor to us and has had a variety of operational responsibilities with us over the past 30 years. Mrs. Ergen has served on the board of directors of The Children's Hospital of Denver since 2001 and served on the board of trustees of The Children's Hospital Foundation of Denver from 1999 to 2001. Mrs. Ergen co-founded DISH Network with her husband, Charles W. Ergen, and James DeFranco, in 1980. The Board concluded that Mrs. Ergen should continue to serve on the Board due to, among other things, her knowledge of DISH Network since its formation and her service to us in a multitude of roles over the years.

Charles W. Ergen. Mr. Ergen serves as our executive Chairman and has been Chairman of the Board of Directors of DISH Network since its formation. During the past five years, Mr. Ergen has held various executive officer and director positions with DISH Network and our subsidiaries including the position of President and Chief Executive Officer from time to time. Mr. Ergen co-founded DISH Network with his wife, Cantey Ergen, and James DeFranco, in 1980. Mr. Ergen also serves as executive Chairman and Chairman of the Board of Directors of EchoStar and served as Chief Executive Officer of EchoStar from its formation in October 2007 until November 2009. Mr. Ergen also served as EchoStar's President from June 2008 until November 2009. The Board concluded that Mr. Ergen should continue to serve on the Board due to, among other things, his role as our co-founder and controlling shareholder and the expertise, leadership and strategic direction that he has contributed to us since our formation.

Steven R. Goodbarn. Mr. Goodbarn joined the Board in December 2002 and is a member of our Executive Compensation Committee, Nominating Committee, and Audit Committee, where he serves as our audit committee financial expert. Since July 2002, Mr. Goodbarn has served as director, President and Chief Executive Officer of Secure64 Software Corporation, a company he co-founded. Mr. Goodbarn was Chief Financial Officer of Janus Capital Corporation (Janus) from 1992 until late 2000. During that time, he was a member of the executive committee and served on the board of directors of many Janus corporate and investment entities. Mr. Goodbarn is a CPA and spent 12 years at Price Waterhouse prior to joining Janus. The Board has determined that Mr. Goodbarn meets the independence and audit committee financial expert requirements of NASDAQ and SEC rules and regulations. Mr. Goodbarn served as a member of the board of directors of EchoStar from its formation in October 2007 until November 2008. The Board concluded that Mr. Goodbarn should continue to serve on the Board due to, among other things, his knowledge of DISH Network from his service as a director since 2002 and his expertise in accounting, auditing, finance and risk management that he brings to the Board, in particular in light of his background as a CPA and his prior experience serving as Chief Financial Officer of Janus.

Gary S. Howard. Mr. Howard joined the Board in November 2005 and is a member of our Executive Compensation Committee, Nominating Committee, and Audit Committee. Mr. Howard has served on the board of directors of Interval Leisure Group, Inc., since August 2008. Mr. Howard served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Liberty Media Corporation from July 1998 to February 2004 as well as serving on Liberty Media Corporation's board of directors from July 1998 until January 2005. Additionally, Mr. Howard held several executive officer positions with companies affiliated with Liberty Media Corporation. The Board has determined that Mr. Howard meets the independence requirements of NASDAQ and SEC rules and regulations. The Board concluded that Mr. Howard should continue to serve on the Board due to, among other things, his knowledge of DISH Network from his service as a director since 2005 and his experience in the media and telecommunications industries, including his prior service with Liberty Media Corporation.

David K. Moskowitz. Mr. Moskowitz is one of our Senior Advisors and was an Executive Vice President as well as our Secretary and General Counsel until 2007. Mr. Moskowitz joined us in March 1990. He was elected to the Board in 1998. Mr. Moskowitz performs certain business functions for us and our subsidiaries from time to time. Since October 2007, Mr. Moskowitz has served as a member of the board of directors of

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EchoStar. Mr. Moskowitz is not standing for reelection to EchoStar's board of directors at EchoStar's 2012 annual meeting of shareholders. The Board concluded that Mr. Moskowitz should continue to serve on the Board due to, among other things, his knowledge of DISH Network from his service as a director since 1998 and his business and legal expertise that he brings to the Board, in particular in light of his service as our General Counsel for 17 years.

Tom A. Ortolf. Mr. Ortolf joined the Board in May 2005 and is a member of our Executive Compensation Committee, Nominating Committee, and Audit Committee. Mr. Ortolf has been the President of CMC, a privately held investment management firm, for nearly twenty years. From 1988 until 1991, Mr. Ortolf served as President and Chief Operating Officer of one of our subsidiaries. The Board has determined that Mr. Ortolf meets the independence requirements of NASDAQ and SEC rules and regulations. Since October 2007, Mr. Ortolf has also served as a member of the board of directors of EchoStar. The Board concluded that Mr. Ortolf should continue to serve on the Board due to, among other things, his knowledge of DISH Network from his service as a director since 2005 and his investment and financial experience, in part as an executive with CMC, which brings to the Board insights into finance, business and risk management.

Carl E. Vogel. Mr. Vogel has served on the Board since May 2005 and is currently a Senior Advisor to us. He served as our President from September 2006 until February 2008 and served as our Vice Chairman from June 2005 until March 2009. From October 2007 until March 2009, Mr. Vogel served as the Vice Chairman of the board of directors of, and as a Senior Advisor to, EchoStar. From 2001 until 2005, Mr. Vogel served as the President and CEO of Charter Communications Inc. (Charter), a publicly-traded company providing cable television and broadband services to approximately six million customers. Prior to joining Charter, Mr. Vogel worked as an executive officer in various capacities for companies affiliated with Liberty Media Corporation. Mr. Vogel was one of our executive officers from 1994 until 1997, including serving as our President from 1995 until 1997. Mr. Vogel is also currently serving on the boards of directors of Shaw Communications, Inc., Sirius XM Radio, Inc., Universal Electronics, Inc., NextWave Wireless Inc. and Ascent Media Corporation. The Board concluded that Mr. Vogel should continue to serve on the Board due to, among other things, his knowledge of DISH Network from his service as a director and officer and his experience in the telecommunications and related industries from his service over the years as a director or officer with a number of different companies in those industries.

Charles W. Ergen, our Chairman, currently possesses approximately 90.4% of the total voting power. Please see Equity Security Ownership below. Mr. Ergen has indicated his intention to vote in favor of Proposal No. 1. Accordingly, approval of Proposal No. 1 is assured notwithstanding a contrary vote by any or all shareholders other than Mr. Ergen.

The Board of Directors unanimously recommends a vote FOR the election of all of the nominees named herein (Item No. 1 on the enclosed proxy card).

Board of Directors and Committees and Selection Process

Our Board held thirteen meetings in 2011 and also took action by unanimous written consent on two occasions during 2011. Each of our directors attended at least 75% of the aggregate of: (i) the total number of meetings of the Board held during the period in which he or she was a director, and (ii) the total number of meetings held by all committees of the Board on which he served. In addition, our non-employee directors held four executive sessions in 2011.

Directors are elected annually and serve until their successors are duly elected and qualified or their earlier resignation or removal. Officers serve at the discretion of the Board.

We are a controlled company within the meaning of the NASDAQ Marketplace Rules because more than 50% of our voting power is held by Charles W. Ergen, our Chairman. Mr. Ergen currently beneficially owns approximately 53.2% of our total equity securities and possesses approximately 90.4% of the total voting power. Mr. Ergen's beneficial ownership excludes 4,245,151 of Class A Shares issuable upon conversion of Class B Shares currently held by certain trusts established by Mr. Ergen for the benefit of his family. These trusts beneficially own approximately 2.0% of our total equity securities and possess approximately 1.6% of the total voting power. Please see Equity Security

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Ownership below. Therefore, we are not subject to the NASDAQ listing requirements that would otherwise require us to have: (i) a Board of Directors comprised of a majority of independent directors; (ii) compensation of our executive officers determined by a majority of the independent directors or a compensation committee composed solely of independent directors; and (iii) director nominees selected, or recommended for the Board's selection, either by a majority of the independent directors or a nominating committee composed solely of independent directors. Nevertheless, the Corporation has created an Executive Compensation Committee (the Compensation Committee) and a Nominating Committee, in addition to an Audit Committee, all of which are composed entirely of independent directors. The charters of our Compensation, Audit, and Nominating Committees are available free of charge on our website at <http://www.dish.com>. The function and authority of these committees are described below:

Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee operates under a Compensation Committee Charter adopted by the Board. The principal functions of the Compensation Committee are, to the extent the Board deems necessary or appropriate, to: (i) make and approve all option grants and other issuances of DISH Network's equity securities to DISH Network's executive officers and Board members other than nonemployee directors; (ii) approve all other option grants and issuances of DISH Network's equity securities, and recommend that the full Board make and approve such grants and issuances; (iii) establish in writing all performance goals for performance-based compensation that together with other compensation to senior executive officers could exceed \$1 million annually, other than standard stock incentive plan options that may be paid to DISH Network's executive officers, and certify achievement of such goals prior to payment; and (iv) set the compensation of Mr. Ergen, who is our Chairman. The Compensation Committee held ten meetings and took action by unanimous written consent on two occasions during 2011. The current members of the Compensation Committee are Mr. Goodbarn, Mr. Howard and Mr. Ortolf, with Mr. Goodbarn serving as Chairman of the Compensation Committee. The Board has determined that each of these individuals meets the independence requirements of NASDAQ and SEC rules and regulations.

Audit Committee. Our Board has established a standing Audit Committee in accordance with NASDAQ rules and Section 10A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act) and related SEC rules and regulations. The Audit Committee operates under an Audit Committee Charter adopted by the Board. The principal functions of the Audit Committee are to: (i) select the independent registered public accounting firm and set their compensation; (ii) select the internal auditor; (iii) review and approve management's plan for engaging our independent registered public accounting firm during the year to perform non-audit services and consider what effect these services will have on the independence of our independent registered public accounting firm; (iv) review our annual financial statements and other financial reports that require approval by the Board; (v) oversee the integrity of our financial statements, our systems of disclosure and internal controls, and our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; (vi) review the scope of our independent registered public accounting firm's audit plans and the results of their audits; and (vii) evaluate the performance of our internal audit function and independent registered public accounting firm.

The Audit Committee held nine meetings and took action by unanimous written consent on one occasion during 2011. The current members of the Audit Committee are Mr. Goodbarn, Mr. Howard and Mr. Ortolf, with Mr. Ortolf serving as Chairman of the Audit Committee and Mr. Goodbarn serving as our audit committee financial expert. The Board has determined that each of these individuals meets the independence requirements of NASDAQ and SEC rules and regulations. The Board has also determined that each member of our Audit Committee is financially literate and that Mr. Goodbarn qualifies as an audit committee financial expert as defined by applicable SEC rules and regulations.

Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee operates under a Nominating Committee Charter adopted by the Board. The principal function of the Nominating Committee is to recommend independent director nominees for selection by the Board. The Nominating Committee held two meetings during 2011 and did not take action by written consent during 2011. The current members of the Nominating Committee are Mr. Goodbarn, Mr. Howard and Mr. Ortolf, with Mr. Howard serving as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. The Board has determined that each of these individuals meets the independence requirements of NASDAQ and SEC rules and regulations.

The Nominating Committee will consider candidates suggested by its members, other directors, senior management and shareholders as appropriate. No search firms or other advisors were retained to identify prospective nominees during the past fiscal year. The Nominating Committee has not adopted a written policy with respect to the consideration of candidates proposed by security holders or with respect to nominating anyone to our Board other than nonemployee directors. Director candidates, whether recommended by the Nominating Committee, other directors, senior management or shareholders are currently considered by the Nominating Committee and the Board, as applicable, in light of the entirety of their credentials, including but not limited to the following diverse factors: (i) their reputation and character; (ii) their ability and willingness to devote sufficient time to Board duties; (iii) their educational background; (iv) their business and professional achievements, experience and industry background; (v) their independence from management under listing standards and the Corporation's governance guidelines; and (vi) the needs of the Board and the Corporation.

Board Criteria

In considering whether to recommend a prospective nominee for selection by the Board, including candidates recommended by shareholders, the Nominating Committee does not assign specific weights to particular criteria and no particular criterion is necessarily applicable to all prospective nominees. However, DISH Network believes that the backgrounds and qualifications of the directors, considered as a group, should provide a diverse mix of experience, knowledge and abilities that will allow the Board to fulfill its responsibilities. The Nominating Committee recommends, if necessary, measures to be taken so that the Board reflects the appropriate balance of experience, knowledge and abilities required for the Board as a whole and contains at least the minimum number of independent directors required by applicable laws and regulations.

A shareholder who wishes to recommend a prospective nominee for the Board should notify the Corporation's Secretary or any member of the Nominating Committee in writing with whatever supporting material the shareholder considers appropriate. The Nominating Committee will also consider whether to nominate any person nominated by a shareholder pursuant to the provisions of the Corporation's bylaws relating to shareholder nominations. Communications can be directed to the Corporation's Secretary or any member of the Nominating Committee in accordance with the process described in *Shareholder Communications* below.

Board Leadership Structure

The Board currently separates the role of Chairman of the Board from the role of Chief Executive Officer, with Mr. Charles W. Ergen serving as Chairman and Mr. Joseph P. Clayton serving as President and Chief Executive Officer of DISH Network. Mr. Clayton is responsible for the day to day management of the Corporation and Mr. Ergen primarily identifies strategic priorities and leads the discussion and execution of strategy for DISH Network. We believe this leadership structure is appropriate for the Corporation, among other reasons, because separating the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer roles allows us to efficiently develop and implement corporate strategy that is consistent with the Board's oversight role, while facilitating strong day-to-day executive leadership. Among other things, separation of these roles allows our Chief Executive Officer and other members of senior management to focus on our day-to-day business, while at the same time the Board is able to take advantage of the unique blend of leadership, experience and knowledge of our industry and business that Mr. Ergen brings to the role of Chairman in providing guidance to, and oversight of, management. In light of the separation of the role of Chairman of the Board from the role of Chief Executive Officer and Mr. Ergen's voting control, we believe that the creation of a lead independent director position is not necessary at this time.

The Board's Role in Risk Oversight

The Board has ultimate responsibility for oversight of the Corporation's risk management processes. The Board discharges this oversight responsibility through regular reports received from and discussions with senior management on areas of material risk exposure to the Corporation. These reports and Board discussions include, among other things, operational, financial, legal and regulatory, and strategic risks. Additionally, the Corporation's risk management processes are intended to identify, manage and control risks so that they are appropriate considering the Corporation's scope, operations and business objectives. The full Board (or the appropriate Committee in the case of risks in areas for which responsibility has been delegated to a particular Committee) engages with the appropriate members of senior management to enable its members to understand and provide input to, and oversight of, our risk identification, risk management and risk mitigation strategies. The Audit Committee also meets regularly in executive session without management present to, among other things, discuss the Corporation's risk management culture and processes. For example, as part of its charter, our Audit Committee is responsible for, among other things, discussing Corporation policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management, and reviewing contingent liabilities and risks that may be material to the Corporation. When a Committee receives a report from a member of management regarding areas of risk, the Chairman of the

relevant Committee will report on the discussion to the full Board to the extent necessary or appropriate. This enables the Board to coordinate risk oversight, particularly with respect to interrelated or cumulative risks that may involve multiple areas for which more than one Committee has responsibility. The Board or applicable Committee also has authority to engage external advisors as necessary.

Other Information About Our Board of Directors

Although we do not have a policy with regard to Board members' attendance at our annual meetings of shareholders, all of our directors are encouraged to attend such meetings. All of our directors were in attendance at our 2011 annual meeting. We expect that all of our directors will attend our 2012 annual meeting.

Equity Security Ownership

The following table sets forth, to the best of our knowledge, the beneficial ownership of our voting securities as of the close of business on March 7, 2012 by: (i) each person known by us to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of any class of our voting securities; (ii) each of our directors; (iii) our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and three other most highly compensated persons acting as one of our executive officers in 2011 (collectively, the Named Executive Officers); and (iv) all of our directors and executive officers as a group. Unless otherwise indicated, each person listed in the following table (alone or with family members) has sole voting and dispositive power over the shares listed opposite such person's name.

Name (1)	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership	Percentage of Class
<i>Class A Common Stock:</i>		
Charles W. Ergen (2), (3)	236,324,012	53.2%
Cantey M. Ergen (4)	235,044,012	53.1%
BlackRock, Inc. (5)	14,377,069	6.9%
Dodge & Cox (6)	14,113,250	6.8%
James DeFranco (7)	4,808,886	2.3%
David K. Moskowitz (8)	944,212	*
Bernard L. Han (9)		