

Speech for ICSSC-21 Award Luncheon on April 17, 2003

Takao Ueda

Mitsubishi Electric Corp.

It is the great honor for me that I have the AIAA-JFSC award today at AIAA 21st ICSSC Conference.

I believe this award should be for all my colleagues at Space Communications Corporation, MCC Corporation, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation and Mitsubishi Corporation who have worked together with me, to achieve the technical and business capability in satellite communications.

Also, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the customers and government agencies people and many of my friends inside and outside Japan in satellite communication community for their support and guidance for our job.

When we started satellite communication business in 1985, we intended to make our new business the unique one, somewhat different from other satellite operators at that time.

First point was how we could provide the application which directly benefits the majority of the Japanese people. That should be satellite TV at present. However, broadcasting by communications operator was not permitted at that time in Japan, because of the Government regulation. (We had a lot of Government regulations at that time.) And we promoted Satellite News Gathering system which made it possible for the TV broadcasting stations to send the materials of news program any time and from anywhere all over Japan. It was a big evolution for them, and most of the broadcasting companies began to utilize our system.

Second unique point was national security and human safety. As for national security, discussion of national security in combination with space activity was some kind of taboo at that time in Japan from some political reason. And it was really a challenge. The first challenge was to provide X-band mobile communications system for Japanese Defense Agency.

Second challenge was Ku-band disaster management communications system for almost 4,000 local government stations all over Japan. This system is being upgraded and expanded to e-Government system covering 10,000 VSAT stations. I believe both systems have contributed for national security and safety of Japanese citizens.

Third point was to adopt the unique technology in Japan which could evolve much in near future, even if it is pre-mature at that time. That was Ka-band technology. Probably, we were the first in the world to provide purely commercial Ka-band transponders in 1989. Now this will be a key for the forthcoming broadband services using Ka-band.

Today, I feel very honored and grateful that the job of our team was awarded, since it means that our technical and business approach was proper and successful.

I am very proud of our team members who worked together with me. And we should further pursue unique application and technology appreciated by users.

Lastly, let me make one comment on the future of satellite communications. At present, some people are too optimistic, and some people too pessimistic for the satellite communications' future.

In my view, the future of satellite communication is bright, so long as we continuously exert aggressive efforts, aiming at the breakthrough in application, technology and cost, so that we can be really responsive to the needs of the many users who are not necessarily interested in satellite communications right now.

I hope I can further make contribution from now for the future of satellite communications.

Thank you very much for your attention.