

Journey of Comsat Labs, Comsat Corp. from the historic Clarksburg, MD location to Comsat Labs, Viasat, Inc. in Germantown, MD

Prakash Chitre

Comsat Labs, Viasat

13135 Winged Foot Lane

Germantown, MD 20874



Comsat Labs, Comsat Corporation, Clarksburg, MD



Comsat Labs, Viasat, Germantown, MD



Comsat Labs, Viasat, Germantown, MD



Major Programs and Technologies During the Last 40 Years

- > Enduring Achievements in the 1980s and 1990s
- > Significant Programs from 2001-2021
- > Awards and Recognition for Viasat
- > The Future of Satellite Communications

*Important Caveat: Only a subset of technologies and programs that I am most familiar with are discussed. My apologies for not mentioning many other significant Comsat Labs achievements and programs during the 1980s, 1990s, and before 1980.

Major Enduring Achievements in the 1980s and 1990s

- > Real-time Operating System and Data Protocols
 - COSMOS and associated libraries and utilities
 - TCP/PEP
 - High speed International Packet Switching demonstration (HIPS)
- > Linkway and Linkstar
 - Modems/ Codecs
 - Dynamic Resource Control and Management
 - Network Control Center and Management System
- > Digital Signal Processing
 - Multicarrier Demux and Demod (MCDD)
 - › NASA, Intelsat, Eutelsat
- > On-board Packet Processing and Ground Network
 - NASA
 - › ACTS Program (Network Control Center and Terminals)

Major Programs

Comsat Labs, Viasat: 2001 - 2021

- > Test-bed for NASA's deep space missions
 - Design and testing of data protocols for ultra-long delay links
- > Transformational Satellite (TSAT) Communications System
 - On-board Dynamic Resource Allocation
- > Ground Based Beam Forming (GBBF) System
 - Design, develop, analyze, and simulate algorithms (ICO)
 - Build, field deploy, and support GBBF system in four gateways (Ligado/Boeing contract for \$70M)
 - Build, field deploy, and support GBBF system in two gateways (Mexsat/Boeing contract for \$55M)
- > Internet Router in Space (IRIS): Cisco/Intelsat
- > Australia's National Broadband Network (NBN)
 - Ground System
 - I&T Test-bed
- > Protected Tactical Satcom (PTS) (Boeing; NG)

Major Programs

Comsat Labs, Viasat: 2001 – 2021 (continued)

- › Mesh, One-hop Satellite Network for Telstra USOSat Service
- › Very High Throughput Satellite Networks
 - VS1 (140 Gbps)
 - › Service launch in 2012
 - VS2 (250 Gbps)
 - › Service launch in 2018
 - VS3 (>1 Tbps)
 - › Three satellites for global coverage
 - › The first one covering America to be launched and in service 2022
 - › The second one covering EMEA and the third covering APAC to be launched and in service 2023

Major Programs

Very High Throughput Satellite Networks (continued)

- > System Engineering
 - Algorithms, Analysis, and Simulation
- > Hardware and Software Development
 - Terminals
 - Gateways
 - Network control and management
- > Integration and Testing
 - Test-beds
 - Payload testing in anechoic chamber
- > Continuing work on next generation higher throughput satellite network

Awards and Recognition for Viasat

- > Guinness Book of Records for highest capacity satellite (VS-1)
- > On Fortune Magazine's list of companies for "Change the World for the Better"
- > Euroconsult Selected Viasat for its 2021 Global Satellite Business of the Year award
- > On the Glassdoor's list of 2022 Best Places to Work Among Large US Employers
- > Viasat named One of Via Satellite Magazine's Top Ten Hottest Satellite Companies for 2022

The Future of Satellite Communications

- > Huge Total Addressable Market and Growing at a Fast Clip
- > Trillion Dollar Mobility Market
 - Aviation (3 Billion airline passengers annually)
 - Maritime
 - Land Mobile
- > Hybrid Networks
 - Multi-orbit and terrestrial
- > Traffic Demand Uneven
 - 95% traffic demand from 25% of the Earth's surface