



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

Geostar Corporation Records

2006

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Geostar Corporation Records
Identifier:	NASM.2006.0049
Date:	(bulk 1983-1991)
Extent:	5.26 Cubic feet ((5 boxes))
Creator:	Geostar Corporation
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Scott Sacknoff, Gift, 2005

Preferred Citation

Geostar Corporation Records, Accession number 2006-0049, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

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Biographical / Historical

Geostar Corporation began in 1983, intent on providing tracking services with Radio Determination Satellite Service (RDSS) technology. Similar to GPS, RDSS uses satellites to provide locating information. Initially a small entrepreneurial company, Geostar had large goals and high hopes for the future. From the beginning, however, Geostar faced many conflicts and problems which eventually proved to be fatal for this fledgling company. In 1985, the founder of Geostar, Dr. Gerard K. O'Neill, was diagnosed with leukemia. Following his recovery, a disagreement over proxies arose between O'Neill and his company, and a lawsuit ensued. Despite managerial and other internal conflicts, Geostar persisted. After two failed attempts to launch a satellite, Geostar faced severe financial concerns and eventually filed for bankruptcy in 1991. Geostar was a pioneer in using satellites to provide accurate tracking and locating services, and made significant contributions to the further development of this field.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of Geostar's business records. Included here is information on RDSS as well as Geostar's agreements and relationships with various organizations including NASA, CAST, AMSC, QUALCOMM, and LOCSTAR. The types of materials present here include correspondence, articles, press releases, presentations, FCC filings, reports, programs, agreements, and financial data

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Artificial satellites
- Astronautics
- Periodicals
- Radio Determination Satellite Service (RDSS) technology
- Space industrialization

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence
- Financial records
- Press releases
- Technical manuals -- 20th century