



*Alouette*

The name of the first Canadian satellite. It is a French word for a high-flying bird, the lark.

*Anik*

The name of Canada's commercial domestic communications satellites operated by Telesat Canada. The word means 'brother' in the Inuit language. Directional pattern of an antenna. Beams for communications satellites are very narrow—only a few degrees wide.

*Beam*

*Canadarm*

The Remote Manipulator System for NASA's Space Transportation System (the space shuttle) that enables astronauts to take satellites from the cargo bay and place them in space and to retrieve satellites already in orbit and put them in the shuttle's cargo bay for servicing or return to Earth.

*CBC*

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Canada's government-owned radio and television networks (English and French).

*DBS*

Direct broadcasting by satellite (to low-cost earth stations small enough to be located on or near a single home). Facility equipped with dish antenna that transmits and/or receives satellite signals.

*Earth station*

*Geostationary orbit*

The circular orbit about 36 000 kilometres above the equator, where satellites have an orbital period of 24 hours and therefore appear stationary from the Earth.

*GHz*

Gigahertz, a unit of frequency equal to one thousand million cycles per second.

*Hermes*

The name of the experimental Communications Technology Satellite. In Greek mythology, Hermes was the messenger of the gods.

*MHz*

Megahertz, a unit of frequency equal to one million cycles per second.

*NASA*

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (USA).

*Orbital positions*

Positions in the geostationary orbit assigned to specific satellites.

*RF*

Radio frequency.

*SARSAT*

Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking.

