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Comtech Telecommunications Announces Second Generation Turbo Product Codec (TPC) Forward Error Corrector (FEC)

Melville, N.Y. - March 8, 2001 - Comtech Telecommunications Corporation (Nasdaq: CMTL) announced today that its Arizona subsidiary, Comtech EF Data Corporation, has begun shipping its second generation Turbo Product Codec FEC in its Satcom modem products.

Fred Kornberg, President and CEO of Comtech, stated "this innovation in coding allows the telecommunications provider to send up to 40% more data in existing satellite transponders without an increase in cost. This once again indicates Comtech's leadership in digital satellite modem design and our dedication to provide the modem user with the very latest in technological advances. The Turbo Product Codec will provide telecommunication providers with three new forward error correction codes to expand existing networks that are power or bandwidth limited and to make the maximum use of the new, high powered satellites."

The first generation Turbo Product Codec provides the user with the ability to save both bandwidth and/or power while getting the desired bit error rate performance in SPC, MCPC or DAMA telecommunications applications. Using a Rate 3/4 FEC module the TPC uses only 60% of the bandwidth of a comparable Rate 1/2 Viterbi and Reed - Solomon concatenated coding scheme that provides superior power and bandwidth performance for data transmission over satellite links, reducing the cost of transmission considerably. Since releasing the original turbo code product, Comtech has shipped over 2,600 of its CDM550T TPC compatible satellite modems and it has become the industry standard TPC for single channel per carrier satellite links.

The second generation TPC product adds two more FEC modes, near Rate 1/3

and Rate 1/2. The new rates were developed at the request of a large government contractor to solve a satellite link problem. The government was deploying with only a 16-inch diameter satellite antenna, and when transmitting at the required output power, the radiated power impinging on adjacent satellites exceeded the internationally allowed limits. After considering spread spectrum techniques from other suppliers, but rejecting them as too expensive, the large government contractor funded Comtech to develop the new TPC rates. When transmitting with Rate 1/3 TPC and, BPSK modulation, the user now achieves the same link error rate at 16% of the previous required output power density, putting the adjacent satellite radiated power within the required specification.

The new technology shows great promise for the commercial markets also, reducing the overall cost of new Satellite earth terminals through reductions in antenna sizes and in radiated levels from power amplifiers. In addition, with the growth of Satellite Internet traffic, existing terminals need to be upgraded in performance. The new TPC rates provide a lower cost solution for upgrades.

The second generation of TPC is completely backwards compatible with existing CDM550T modems using the first generation TCP and only require a simple software upgrade from the factory that can be installed without opening the units. For more detailed technical information please visit the Comtech EF Data web site.

Comtech EF Data Corp. (www.comtechefdata.com) manufactures a broad spectrum of Frequency Up and Down Converters, Solid State Power Amplifiers, Satellite Modems and Transceivers that meet or exceed the standards published by Intelsat, Eutelsat, Insat, AsiaSat and other worldwide and regional satellite networks.

Comtech Telecommunications Corp. is an innovative player in the domestic and global high-technology markets. Through its operating units, Comtech pursues opportunities in three interrelated market segments: telecommunications transmission, RF microwave amplifiers, and mobile data communications services. In each of these segments, growth is driven by increasing demand for telecommunications infrastructure and network and messaging services. The company's specialties include the design and manufacture advanced products and networks used for transmission of voice, data and video using satellite, over-the-horizon microwave, terrestrial line of sight and other wireless communications systems. More than 275 distinct Comtech products are in service in more than 100 countries.