

ECHOSTAR in Tenerife

In TELE-satellite issue 12-01/2009 we reported on how Diego Fernando Sanchez Rosende is trying to receive out of footprint satellite signals. He manages to catch several North American satellites with only a 1.8 m offset dish.

However, there is no cause for delight in receiving these signals, as almost all of them are encrypted. But then Diego discovered CBS-21 on ECHOSTAR 6A at 72.5° West, on the vertical polarisation of 12.224 GHz and found out that it is being transmitted in the clear. "I can receive this channel with high definition in DVB-S2 quite reliably." Meanwhile, even more channels have joined CBS-21 and so Diego can watch US television in Europe on the island of Tenerife.

Looking at his spectrum analyzer he compiled the following list of transponders which he is able to receive:

DIRECTV 1R - ECHOSTAR 6 at 72,5° WEST (DIRECTV USA - DISH NETWORK USA)

- 12.224, R, 20000, 5/6
- 12.239, L, 20000, 5/6
- 12.282, R, 20000, 5/6
- 12.340, L, 20000, 5/6

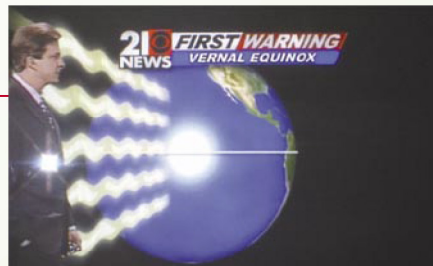
ECHOSTAR 4 - ECHOSTAR 8 at 77,0° WEST (DISH NETWORK MEXICO)

- 12.239, L, 20000, 5/6

Apart from these two satellites Diego also receives signals from ECHOSTAR at 61.5° West and AMAZONAS at 61° West, but with a lower signal strength that is insufficient for producing a clear image on screen.

Once again, Diego's example clearly shows that satellite signals can also be received way out of footprint. It's always worth giving it a try, much more so if an appropriately sized antenna is available together with unrestricted view and - ideally - a location at high altitude: the higher the location, the lower signal interference from terrestrial transmissions. Diego lives up on a mountain, whose backside blocks all signals travelling from the north. In addition, the almost complete lack of environmental pollution makes for a clear view to North American satellites and thus creates a situation that might be quite unique in Europe.

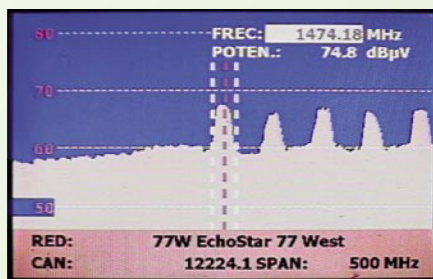
TELE-satellite is always happy to find out about reception of 'impossible' satellites. If you too are one of the lucky few receiving signals that should not be available at your location in the first place, then please get in touch with us at www.TELE-satellite.com/letter/



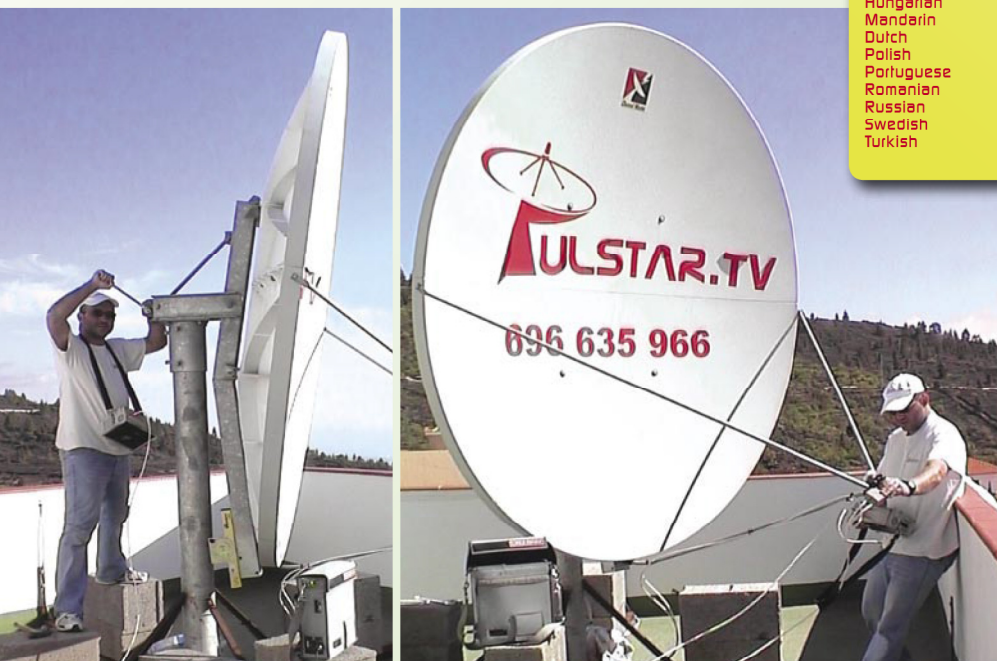
■ Receiving a free-to-air US channel in Europe: CBS-21 is transmitted in the clear from ECHOSTAR 6A and received in Tenerife/Spain by Diego's 1.8 m antenna.



■ Diego's satellite meter shows the NIT table of one of the transponders of ECHOSTAR 6A he is receiving



■ Spectrum display of ECHOSTAR 6A in Tenerife.



■ The low elevation required for receiving american satellites strikes right away. As Diego's location is high up in the mountains he is able to maintain reception even with such low elevation.

■ Diego fine-tunes his 1.8 m offset dish which he uses to receive american satellites in Tenerife.

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■ The footprint is far from reaching Europe - or so the theory goes. In the real world, reception is very well possible in the western fringes of Europe.