

Satellites in Santiago



▲ Juan Carlos aligns his satellite antenna towards GALAXY. The dish to the left is positioned to receive TELSTAR 12 while the large C band dish on the right still has to be adjusted properly.



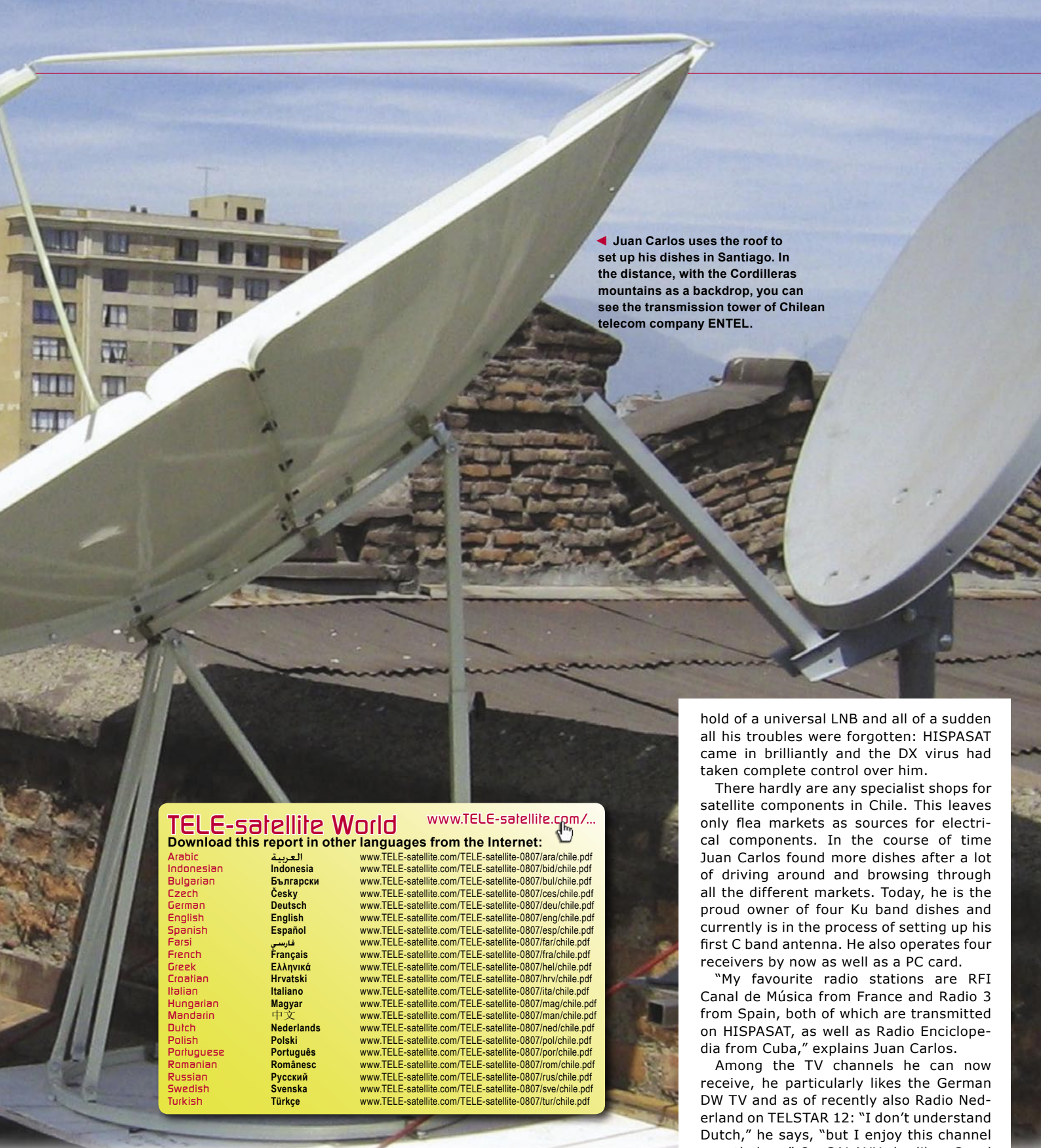
▲ Inside Juan's shack. As you can see his technical equipment is pretty impressive.



▲ Juan Carlos reading TELE-satellite, which he downloads via the Internet and prints at home.



Right next to the LA MONEDA presidential palace in Santiago de Chile, Juan Carlos Miranda Duarte is busy creating his own fully featured DX system. His professional background as a metal worker certainly is an asset for this job. Originally coming from Viña del Mar, a town some 120 km south of Santiago, Juan Carlos tells the story of how he became a DX addict:



◀ Juan Carlos uses the roof to set up his dishes in Santiago. In the distance, with the Cordilleras mountains as a backdrop, you can see the transmission tower of Chilean telecom company ENTEL.

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hold of a universal LNB and all of a sudden all his troubles were forgotten: HISPASAT came in brilliantly and the DX virus had taken complete control over him.

There hardly are any specialist shops for satellite components in Chile. This leaves only flea markets as sources for electrical components. In the course of time Juan Carlos found more dishes after a lot of driving around and browsing through all the different markets. Today, he is the proud owner of four Ku band dishes and currently is in the process of setting up his first C band antenna. He also operates four receivers by now as well as a PC card.

"My favourite radio stations are RFI Canal de Música from France and Radio 3 from Spain, both of which are transmitted on HISPASAT, as well as Radio Enciclopedia from Cuba," explains Juan Carlos.

Among the TV channels he can now receive, he particularly likes the German DW TV and as of recently also Radio Nederland on TELSTAR 12: "I don't understand Dutch," he says, "but I enjoy this channel nonetheless." On GALAXY he likes Canal 7 from Argentina and TV Montecarlo from Uruguay. The TV channels from Cuba and TV Canarias from Spain also count among his favourites. "In the evening I switch my receiver to Belgian radio on TELSTAR 12. The good music on this station then wakes me up again the next morning," Juan describes his listening habits.

Currently Juan Carlos is in the process of expanding his equipment. There is enough space available, but getting hold of all the components is the tricky part. However, once the DX virus has a grip on somebody, all obstacles can be overcome.

"About a year ago I stumbled across TELE-satellite while surfing the Internet. It was Ingo Salomon's giant antenna in South Africa that immediately caught my attention." But frankly, Juan Carlos showed a certain predisposition even as a youth when he was a dedicated listener to short-wave radio which he picked up with an old Telefunken tube radio. No wonder, then, that he caught the virus again as soon as he had read the TELE-satellite story: rather than being limited to pay TV channels from his own country he wanted to receive FTA

stations from around the globe.

A friend offered him a used satellite receiver which he bought right away, and he also managed to quickly source a used dish complete with LNB. He put together all components and desperately tried to catch a signal – to no avail. Had he bought a defective receiver? Was it the LNB's fault? What about the dish alignment? Or did he use wrong or incomplete parameters to set up his equipment? Weeks went by, but Juan Carlos never lost his patience.

There came a day when he could get