

On September 11, 2007, Paul MAXWELL-KING was sentenced for violations of Title 18 United States Code, Section 371, conspiring to commit Title 47 United States Code, Section 605(e)(4) import/export/distribute devices intended primarily to be used in the unauthorized decryption of commercial direct to home satellite television services. The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Special Agent in Charge, Tampa, Florida, along with Assistant United States Attorneys (AUSA) Cherie Krigsman and Terry Zitek prosecuted the case in the Middle District of Florida.

SUMMARY:

This case involved a criminal organization dating from approximately June 1997 to May 2002, during which defendants conspired to illegally assemble, modify, export, import, sell, and distribute devices that enabled individuals to illegally obtain commercial direct to home satellite television signals. The conspiracy also involved mail and wire fraud, as well as fraudulently importing merchandise into the United States by means of false pretenses. The following three businesses were involved in this fraud: MAXKING INTERFACES, an international and interstate corporation based in Doncaster, South Yorkshire, England; BLUE SKY TECHNOLOGIES, located in Tampa Florida; and PEDETOWN USA, located in Jacksonville, Florida. As a result of the conspiracy, the satellite television industry lost millions of dollars. The victims were primarily, DirecTV, DISH Network, and NDS. The victims were also satellite television consumers, who were paying increased fees to cover the industry losses.

Paul MAXWELL-KING owned and operated MAXKING INTERFACES, and was the inventor and engineer of the MK-13 and Minimax smart card programmers, which with software, provided for the unauthorized decryption of direct to home satellite television signals. He established distributor relationships with BLUE SKY TECHNOLOGIES and PEDETOWN USA, and imported the MK-13 and Minimax devices into the United States. Paul MAXWELL-KING was the leader of the organization, and very popular in the United States through his website, and the MK-13 and Minimax programmers. Paul MAXWELL-KING was probably the largest and most popular distributor of the illegal satellite signal intercepting devices in the United States. His creation of the MK-13 and Minimax programmer technology caused millions of dollars in damage to the satellite television industry.

ICE SAC/Tampa and the AUSA Cherie Krigsman worked together to extradite Paul MAXWELL-KING from Doncaster, England to the United States on January 18, 2006, and extradited Steve EDMONDSON from Doncaster England, on December 18, 2006. EDMONDSON was an employee of Paul MAXWELL-KING.

Estimated damages by the Paul MAXWELL-KING organization were \$4,324,320. Paul MAXWELL-KING plead guilty and was sentenced to time served, 3 years probation, a \$15,000 fee, 350 hours community service, and ordered to pay restitution of \$4,324,320. Steven EDMONDSON, plead guilty to the same charges, and was sentenced to time served and ordered to share the restitution of \$4,324,320. Robert MCLAREN, owner of BLUE SKY TECHNOLOGIES in Tampa FL, plead guilty to the same charges, and was sentenced to share the restitution of \$4,324,320, along with one of his employees, Susan PARKER-TRUDGIAN, who also plead guilty. John Dumas, owner of PEDETOWN USA, plead guilty and was sentenced to share the restitution of \$4,324,320.