



## Eccentric Orbits: The Iridium Story - How a Single Man Saved the World's Largest Satellite Constellation From Fiery Destruction (Paperback)

By John Bloom

Grove Press / Atlantic Monthly Press, United States, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Main. Language: English . Brand New Book. In the early 1990s, Motorola, the legendary American company, made a huge gamble on a revolutionary satellite telephone system called Iridium. Light-years ahead of anything previously put into space, and built on technology developed for Ronald Reagan's Star Wars, Iridium's constellation of sixty-six satellites in six evenly spaced orbital planes meant that at least one satellite was always overhead. Iridium was a mind-boggling technical accomplishment, surely the future of communication. The only problem was that Iridium was also a commercial disaster. Only months after launching service, it was \$11 billion in debt, burning through \$100 million a month and bringing in almost no revenue. Bankruptcy was inevitable - the largest to that point in American history. It looked like Iridium would go down as just a science experiment. That is, until Dan Colussy got a wild idea. Colussy, a former CEO of Pan Am, heard about Motorola's plans to de-orbit the system and decided he would buy Iridium and somehow turn around one of the biggest blunders in the history of business. Eccentric Orbits masterfully traces the birth of...



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