

EXHIBIT NO. 1

PUBLIC INTEREST STATEMENT

Claircom Licensee Corporation ("Claircom") is operating an experimental ground station pursuant to an experimental license granted by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") for the purpose of testing new equipment and software for use in the air-to-ground ("ATG") telephone service (Call Sign KF2XJD, FCC File No. 4422-EX-PL-94).^{1/} The experimental license authorizes Claircom to use a pilot channel at 849.9813 MHz and voice channels at channel block 6 (849.8000-849.9765 MHz) to operate the experimental ground station at 50 watts effective radiated power at the site of Claircom's existing ATG station at the Seattle-Tacoma Airport in Seattle, Washington.^{2/} Claircom's experimental license expires on October 18, 1996. Extension of the experimental license is in the public interest because it will enable Claircom to continue testing new ATG products and services in a "real-world" environment, thus improving ATG call quality and benefitting the American flying public.

During the last two years, Claircom has used the experimental license to test new ATG products such as software,

^{1/} On October 18, 1994, the Commission granted the experimental license to Claircom Communications Group, L.P. The Commission granted the July 12, 1995 pro forma application to assign the experimental license to Claircom (FCC File No. 22739-CG-AL-94).

^{2/} The FCC also waived the station identification requirements contained in Section 5.152 of its rules.

repeaters, hardware and antennas to determine how they work in a real-world environment. The primary use of the experimental license has been to conduct tests as part of a project that uses repeaters to extend ATG coverage and airplane telephony services to areas, such as airport gates, that are blocked from the ground station. For example, the use of repeaters will allow ATG customers to make telephone calls while an airplane is at an airport gate, a valuable calling feature which is not currently available. The tests have allowed Claircom to gather information on repeater operation to demonstrate to the other ATG carriers, GTE Airphone Incorporated and In-Flight Phone Corporation, that the repeater system will not interfere with their operations. Claircom is working with the two other ATG carriers to develop the design and use of the repeaters.

During testing conducted pursuant to the experimental license, Claircom took measures to ensure that interference would not occur to other users. Claircom has coordinated its operations with the other ATG providers to ensure that in-band interference does not occur, and power and spectrum control has prevented interference to users outside the ATG frequency band. Claircom will continue to conduct its testing in accordance with the technical standards in Part 22 of the FCC's rules and the terms of its experimental license. Claircom has not received any interference complaints, and does not expect to receive any, but

will remedy any interference complaints received as a result of its testing. In addition, the experimental ground station will continue to meet the distance separation requirements in Section 22.859 of the FCC's rules. The ATG spectrum reserved for use by Claircom for its experimental license is not in use and has not been assigned to any ATG licensee.^{3/}

Grant of this extension request is in the public interest because it will allow Claircom to conclude the testing for its repeater project. During the next term of the experimental license, Claircom also will begin testing of new ATG antennas and signal processing algorithms that will allow the dynamic cancellation of in-band interference sources, such as B-band cellular signals, that cause a large percentage of dropped ATG calls. These projects will result in improved ATG products and coverage, thus greatly enhancing ATG customer service.

For good cause shown, Claircom requests a two-year extension of its experimental license to operate its experimental ground station at the Seattle-Tacoma Airport. Claircom also requests a continuation of the FCC's waiver of Section 5.152 of its rules so that a station call sign need not be transmitted because the experimental ground station is not capable of station identification. Such a waiver is customary in the ATG service.

^{3/} Claircom agrees to abide by any final action taken by the Commission with respect to the future use of the vacant ATG pilot channels. Public Notice, Report No. MSD-94-8 (March 2, 1994).