

Attachment A – Background Information

This application has its roots in Experimental License WI2XPQ (expired). That license allowed the Applicant, Carnegie Mellon University (“CMU”) to participate” in the Naval Post-Graduate School’s Joint Interagency Field Experimentation (“JIFX”), sometimes referred to as “Naval Postgraduate School Field Experimentation (“NPS-FX”).” Information about the experimentation is available online at <https://my.nps.edu/web/fx>. These events are generally held at Camp Roberts, Highway 101, Camp Roberts, CA 93451-5000. CMU has been, and will continue to be, an active participant in JFIX exercises.

Applicant is committed to participate in the in the “JIFX beginning in late April 2019 and will also be conducting experiments for the United States Department of Agriculture throughout California, in the 902-928 MHz band and in the TV White Spaces/600 MHz services bands¹ beginning in late April 2019. Applicant has filed for longer-term experimental licenses but does not expect Commission action before late April. Hence, an STA is necessary.

The purpose of the operations follow. JIFX enables a diverse group of academics, government labs, private industry, end users, and others to come together to develop and refine new technologies in a field environment. The results advance both the science of radio engineering and national defense. At times, emergency first responders also participate. Due to the sponsorship of the Army and Navy and the relationship of JFIX to military effectiveness and national defense, the exact nature of the experiments and exercises are generally treated as confidential and not disclosed beyond the sponsors and, as appropriate, the participants. As permitted by the Army and the Navy and upon reasonable request by the Commission, CMU would disclose information to the Commission on a confidential basis. This information would include: a) The complete program of research and experimentation proposed, including description of equipment and theory of operation; b) The specific objectives sought to be accomplished and c) How the program of experimentation has a reasonable promise of contribution to the development, extension, expansion or utilization of the radio art, or is along a line not already investigated.

In addition, CMU has been approached by the United States Department of Agriculture (“USDA”) to participate in similar radio technology research throughout the state of California. CMU believes that this additional research, the results of which can generally be disseminated, can and will provide further benefits the public interest. Therefore, in this application, CMU is seeking permission to extend the license footprint throughout California, although CMU expects much of the experiments will be carried out in rural parts of the state.

CMU conducts many of its “on-location” experiments from its mobile RF laboratory (a retrofitted EMT rescue vehicle, length 7 meters, height 2.7 meters) with an extendable antenna mast (16 meters maximum from the top of the mast to the bottom of the tires). Attachment B. This vehicle will be deployed at Camp Roberts and around the rest of the state. Accordingly, it is impossible to provide exact details requested in the questions about antenna height except at

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 15.703.

Camp Roberts.² Other experiments will be conducted with mobile transmitters outside the mobile lab.³ When operating in locations within 805 meters of a covered airport, CMU will make any notifications to the Federal Aviation Administration (“FAA”) as explained in Section 17.7 of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. § 17.7.

² CMU’s application includes antenna height location for Camp Roberts and is the same as that which was approved as part of WI2XPQ.

³ A wide range of antenna types including omni and directional, including but not limited to ceramic, patch, Yagi, and stacked-Yagi sector types. CMU’s use of directional antennas will be in compliance with Part 15, Subpart C of the FCC’s rules.