

To the Office of Engineering and Technology:

***Re: Request for confidential treatment for information within Experimental License Application, File No. 0801-EX-PL-2015***

Ericsson respectfully requests that, pursuant to Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457 and 0.459, the Commission withhold from public inspection and accord confidential treatment to the antenna parameters, channel width, output power, use cases, and Verizon's deployment plans from our experimental license application and related exhibits in File Number 0801-EX-PL-2015. This information qualifies as trade secrets and commercial information that falls within Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA").<sup>1</sup> It is not necessary to provide this information to the public for purposes of interference mitigation as the application seeks authorization to operate on government spectrum and NTIA and affected government users will conduct their own review of the full unredacted application. Ericsson has previously requested, and been granted, confidential treatment for most of this information from the Commission in our application for an experimental license to conduct a 5G testbed, File Number 0765-EX-PL-2014.

Exemption 4 of FOIA provides that the public disclosure requirement of the statute "does not apply to matters that are . . . (4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential."<sup>2</sup> Ericsson is providing the trade secrets and commercial information "of a kind that would not customarily be released to the public" because such disclosure is necessary to obtain an experimental license and conduct the program of research into developing 5G technology. Therefore, this information is "confidential" under Exemption 4 of FOIA.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, Ericsson would suffer substantial competitive harm if the identified information in our research program were disclosed.<sup>4</sup>

In support of this request and pursuant to Section 0.459(b) of the Commission's rules,<sup>5</sup> Ericsson hereby states as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *See Critical Mass Energy Project v. NRC*, 975 F.2d 871, 879 (D.C. Cir. 1992).

<sup>4</sup> *See National Parks and Conservation Ass'n v. Morton*, 498 F.2d 765 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

<sup>5</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b).



**1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR WHICH CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT IS SOUGHT<sup>6</sup>**

Ericsson seeks confidential treatment of antenna parameters, channel width, output power, use cases, and Verizon's deployment plans for the experiment, in both the official application and exhibits. We have provided a public version of the exhibit in which we have redacted this information.

**2. DESCRIPTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES GIVING RISE TO THE SUBMISSION<sup>7</sup>**

Ericsson is submitting an application for authorization for an experimental license to conduct 5G research with Verizon.

**3. EXPLANATION OF THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE INFORMATION IS COMMERCIAL OR FINANCIAL, OR CONTAINS A TRADE SECRET OR IS PRIVILEGED<sup>8</sup>**

The information for which Ericsson seeks confidential treatment contains sensitive trade secrets and commercial information "which would customarily be guarded from competitors."<sup>9</sup> Ericsson has invested finances, planning and expertise into developing this "secret commercially valuable plan" that is the program of research into 5G, and it will use this research to develop 5G products. The antenna parameters, channel width, output power and use case information are at the core of what and how we will research and it is not information we would disclose except for the need to obtain the experimental license. Similarly, Verizon's planned deployment timetable is a trade secret and commercial information "which would customarily be guarded from competitors."<sup>10</sup> and should be kept confidential.

**4. EXPLANATION OF THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE INFORMATION CONCERNS A SERVICE THAT IS SUBJECT TO COMPETITION<sup>11</sup>**

Developing network products is the core of Ericsson's business and 5G is the next generation of network technology, which is still in the research and development stage. Ericsson faces competition in the US and globally to develop the best 5G products.

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<sup>6</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(1).

<sup>7</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(2).

<sup>8</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(3).

<sup>9</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 0.457.

<sup>10</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 0.457.

<sup>11</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(4).



**5. EXPLANATION OF HOW DISCLOSURE OF THE INFORMATION COULD RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL COMPETITIVE HARM<sup>12</sup>**

The release of the plan we are using to research and develop 5G products could result in competitive harm to Ericsson to the extent it became available to competitors. Disclosing the information would enable competitors to use and benefit from the investment Ericsson has made to develop the current program of research and to shortcut their own research processes and undermine our position with customers. It would unjustly benefit our competitors to gain this insight into our research.

**6. IDENTIFICATION OF ANY MEASURES TAKEN BY THE SUBMITTING PARTY TO PREVENT UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE<sup>13</sup>**

The information has been disclosed only to Ericsson and Verizon personnel working on the experiment, under a NonDisclosure Agreement, except as discussed in the next section. We have provided a redacted narrative to the application to keep the information confidential.

**7. IDENTIFICATION OF WHETHER THE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AND THE EXTENT OF ANY PREVIOUS DISCLOSURE OF THE INFORMATION TO THIRD PARTIES<sup>14</sup>**

The information is not available to the public. Ericsson has shared some of the technical information with a limited number of people from Verizon, as needed to plan to conduct this research together, but those persons are bound by a NonDisclosure Agreement. Per the NDA, all the information will remain confidential.

Ericsson has previously disclosed the information in this application to the FCC and NTIA because we have filed for experimental licenses and STAs based on the same technical information.<sup>15</sup> The FCC has granted all our previous requests for confidentiality.

These are the only disclosures that have been made outside of Ericsson. Accordingly, Ericsson requests that the Commission accord the information covered by this Request confidential treatment under Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Commission's rules.

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<sup>12</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(5).

<sup>13</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(6).

<sup>14</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(7).

<sup>15</sup> See File Numbers 0765-EX-PL-2014, 0806-EX-ST-2015, and 0808-EX-ST-2015.



**8. JUSTIFICATION OF THE PERIOD DURING WHICH THE SUBMITTING PARTY ASSERTS THAT MATERIAL SHOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE<sup>16</sup>**

Ericsson requests that the requested information be treated as confidential for a period of 4 years. We request this time period so that competitors cannot benefit from our research as the industry develops 5G technology. By the end of 4 years, research into 5G should have developed to an extent where disclosing this information to the public would not be a competitive risk. In addition, in our request for confidentiality of this information made last year in File No. 0765-EX-PL-2014, we requested confidentiality for 5 years. Granting 4 years for application would align those time frames.

**9. OTHER INFORMATION THAT ERICSSON BELIEVES MAY BE USEFUL IN ASSESSING WHETHER ITS REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIALITY SHOULD BE GRANTED<sup>17</sup>**

Granting this request for confidentiality is consistent with a policy of supporting innovation and the investment necessary to conduct research.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kelley A. Shields  
Director, Government Affairs and Public Policy

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<sup>16</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(8).

<sup>17</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(9).