

Nature of Request for Special Temporary Authority

The Federal Government has hired General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems (“GDAIS”) to develop a satellite communications signal processing system, to be installed at a remote facility that is conducting ongoing upgrades of the system. The proposed processing system will permit ground stations to transmit and receive terrestrial information via the satellite system. The satellite communication signal processing system will then provide the processing results to the Federal Government at a remote facility. The processing system will consist of hardware for operation with geo-synchronous satellites. The communications signal processing system is part of a satellite system vital to the national defense of the United States resulting from the events of September 11, 2001.

Upon successful testing of this system, GDAIS will install the necessary earth station hardware to receive and transmit information from geo-synchronous satellites viewed from the remote facility. Construction at a remote facility and installation of this signal processing system are scheduled to be completed by August 2006 with testing from August 2006 through July 2007.

GDAIS has completed testing of this processing system in its laboratory. However, in order to complete testing, GDAIS must test the communications system in a real world environment; hence the necessity of the authorization for an experimental radio station to test the communications system.

GDAIS has pending an application for license for these facilities (File No. 0365-EX-PL-2006). Commission staff has advised GDAIS that processing of the license application may take a minimum of four months from today because of applications filed prior to this application. However, the time sensitive nature of this project combined with its implications for national security requires that GDAIS begin real world testing with the experimental license as soon as possible. But for the time sensitive nature of this project and its importance to national security, GDAIS would not file this request and instead wait for processing of the pending license application.

The time sensitive nature of this project combined with its importance to national security justifies Commission approval of this request for special temporary authority. It is imperative that GDAIS fulfill its obligations to the Federal Government in a timely manner, with real world testing with the experimental radio station commencing as soon as possible. GDAIS therefore requests that the Commission grant this request for special temporary authority for a period of six months. GDAIS further requests that the Commission continue processing the pending license application in a timely manner.

Because this project has been classified “top-secret”, the Federal Government prohibits GDAIS from disclosing the name of the federal agency, the contact person at the agency, the project number, or the name of the project. GDAIS has in the past filed Form 442 applications in this manner and receive approval from the Federal Communications Commission, most recently for an application filed with the FCC in January 2002.