

Request for Special Temporary Authority

Rocket Lab USA (“Rocket Lab”) has requested special temporary authority (“STA”) to operate an Iridium 9602 modem on its commercial launch vehicle.¹ The modem will transmit to space stations in Iridium’s “Big LEO” constellation.

Iridium hereby requests an STA to transmit in the reverse direction, from its Big LEO constellation to the 9602 modem on Rocket Lab’s launch vehicle.² The technical characteristics of these transmissions will be identical to the technical characteristic of Iridium’s already-licensed space station transmissions in the 1618.725–1626.5 MHz band.³

Iridium’s space station constellation is licensed under Call Sign S2110. Because Iridium will be operating under the requested STA in accordance with the parameters of its license, no operating parameters, other than effective radiated power, were used in the form that this exhibit accompanies. The only change from Iridium’s licensed operations is that Iridium will be adding the modem on Rocket Lab’s launch vehicle as a point of communication. Iridium’s space station license does not cover intersatellite communications in the 1618.725–1626.5 MHz band.

¹ See File No. 1680-EX-ST-2017.

² The Form 442 that this narrative accompanies states that two satellite phone units will be used. This statement reflects the fact that there will be a primary unit and a back-up unit. But only a single unit will be operational at any given time.

³ Iridium’s constellation is comprised of 66 satellites, any one of which may be used as part of the experiment at any point in time.