Request for Special Temporary Authority

Rocket Lab USA ("Rocket Lab") previously requested and was granted experimental special temporary authority ("STA") to operate an Iridium 9602 modem on its commercial launch vehicle to transmit to space stations in Iridium's "Big LEO" constellation.[1] Rocket Lab recently requested an extension of its STA until March 1, 2018.[2]

Iridium previously sought and was granted an STA[3] to transmit in the reverse direction, from its Big LEO constellation to the 9602 modem on Rocket Lab's launch vehicle.[4] Since Rocket Lab's STA and Iridium's STA involve the same experiment, Iridium hereby requests a parallel extension of its STA until March 1, 2018.

The technical characteristics of Iridium's experimental transmissions under this extension will be identical to those specified in its initial STA, which are identical to the technical characteristic of Iridium's regularly-licensed space station transmissions under Call Sign S2110 in the 1618.725–1626.5 MHz band.[5] . Because there are no technical changes proposed, no operating parameters, other than effective radiated power, have been used in the form that this exhibit accompanies. The only change from Iridium's licensed operations is that Iridium has added 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] See File No. 1805-EX-ST-2017.
[3] See FCC Call Sign, WM9XCQ, File No. 1771-EX-ST-2017.
[4] 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.
[5] 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.