



September 18, 2020

Dr. Jonathan Black  
Professor and Director  
Virginia Tech  
215 Randolph Hall (0203)  
460 Old Turner St.  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

**RE: NOAA Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs License Inquiry**

Dear Dr. Black:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs Office (CRSRA) has received and reviewed your Initial Contact Form submitted on September 17, 2020. By the authority given to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce under the National and Commercial Space Programs Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-314), and as delegated to NOAA, we have assessed that your proposed mission will not be required to apply for a NOAA operator's license. This determination was made based on the information provided, which stated that the remote sensing instruments will be used for mission assurance purposes. This does not relieve you of the obligation to receive any other U.S. Government licenses, permissions, or permits.

This determination applies to the ThickSat mission only and is based on the Initial Contact Form submitted on September 17, 2020. If the factual circumstances of the information provided change, please submit a new Initial Contact Form. Additionally, please contact CRSRA with any future satellite mission you may plan to operate in order to obtain a licensing determination on that specific mission.

Please refer any questions regarding this determination to CRSRA at 301-427-2560 or by email at [CRSRA@noaa.gov](mailto:CRSRA@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

Tahara D. Dawkins  
Director, Commercial Remote Sensing  
Regulatory Affairs

cc: Glenn Tallia, NOAA GC

