

August 9, 2018

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Subject: **Space Exploration Technologies Corp.
Request for Confidential Treatment of Exhibit 1**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to Sections 0.457(d) and 0.459 of the FCC Rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.457(d) and 0.459, the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (“*FOIA*”), and the Trade Secrets Act, 18 USC § 1905, Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (“*SpaceX*”) respectfully requests that the confidential information submitted herewith (the “*Confidential Materials*”) not be placed in the public file and otherwise be withheld from public inspection.

(1) Identification of the specific information for which confidential treatment is sought:

The Confidential Materials consist of the following technical exhibit to SpaceX’s application for modification of its existing experimental authorization:

- Exhibit 1p2 – Supplemental Information Regarding Earth Stations

(2) Identification of the Commission proceeding in which the information was submitted or a description of the circumstances giving rise to the submission:

The Confidential Materials are being submitted in connection with SpaceX’s request for modification of its experimental authorization for the Microsat-2a/b test and demonstration mission.¹

(3) Explanation of the degree to which the information is commercial or financial, or contains a trade secret or privilege:

The Confidential Materials contain specific, sensitive proprietary technical and commercial information relating to SpaceX’s planned NGSO satellite project, including detailed information about the design and capabilities of earth stations that can be used with its system.

¹ See Call Sign WI2XTA, File No. 0298-EX-CN-2016 (granted Nov. 16, 2017).

(4) Explanation of the degree to which the information concerns a service that is subject to competition:

SpaceX is subject to substantial competition from other commercial satellite operators (both existing and planned), as are the manufacturers of the antennas it will use for the proposed course of experiments. Public disclosure of the Confidential Materials could allow competitors ready access to sensitive proprietary information, which, under normal business circumstances, is not and would not be publicly disclosed.

(5) Explanation of how disclosure of the information could result in substantial competitive harm:

Among other things, disclosure of the Confidential Materials would provide potential competitors significant and detailed information on the design and capabilities of the satellite system SpaceX has under development, as well as the design and capabilities of earth stations antennas that can be used with that system, and could thereby enable unfair competition with SpaceX and/or its manufacturers. Accordingly, public disclosure of any of the information contained in the Confidential Materials is likely to cause competitive injury and substantial irreparable harm to SpaceX and its antenna manufacturers, and is therefore exempted from mandatory disclosure under FOIA Exemption 4, and Section 0.457(d) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 0.457(d).

(6) Identification of any measures taken by the submitting party to prevent unauthorized disclosure:

SpaceX and its manufacturers have taken substantial and reasonable measures to prevent unauthorized disclosure of the Confidential Materials, including, where appropriate, advising recipients of their proprietary and protected status. Any disclosure of the Confidential Materials to SpaceX-related entities has been in confidence, subject to a binding non-disclosure agreement, and/or subject to attorney-client privilege, where applicable.

(7) Identification of whether the information is available to the public and the extent of any previous disclosure of the information to third parties:

SpaceX has provided a significant amount of information related to the radio frequency characteristics of its proposed experimental operations in the publicly-available Exhibit A to its application, which should enable interested parties to assess the potential implications of its operations with respect to other spectrum users. To the best of the applicant's knowledge, as of the date of this submittal, the supplemental technical information contained in the Confidential Materials is not generally available to the public, and neither SpaceX nor its manufacturers presently intend for it to be released for unlimited distribution. The extent of previous disclosure of the information to third parties is limited to SpaceX-related entities such as agents, contractors and subcontractors, on a need-to-know basis.

(8) Justification of the period during which the submitting party asserts that material should not be available for public disclosure:

SpaceX requests that the Confidential Materials be withheld from public disclosure by the Commission for an indefinite period, or for the maximum permissible time. SpaceX and its manufacturers have a proprietary right in their confidential commercial information. SpaceX has expended substantial financial and in-kind resources to organize and develop its business. SpaceX and its manufacturers have also taken precautionary steps and measures to maintain and safeguard their confidential information, including the information contained in the Confidential Materials.

For all the above-stated reasons, the Commission should grant SpaceX's limited Request for Confidential Treatment of Exhibit 1, and should not place the Confidential Materials in the public file and otherwise should withhold the Confidential Materials from public inspection.

If you require additional information, please contact the undersigned at (202) 649-2700 or via email at Patricia.Cooper@SpaceX.com.

Very respectfully,

/Patricia Cooper/

Patricia Cooper
Vice President of Satellite Government Affairs, SpaceX