

# *SpaceQuest, Ltd.*

3554 Chain Bridge Road , Suite 103  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
Tel: (703) 273-7010 Fax: (703) 273-7011

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July 30, 2001

Mr. Carl Huie (OET)  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Copy To:** International Bureau  
**Subject:** Notification of Space Station Launch  
**File No:** 0117-EX-PL-2001  
**Ref:** Application for Experimental License

Dear Mr. Huie:

In the interest of full disclosure and to avoid any misinformation to the Commission and the International Bureau, SpaceQuest, Ltd. ("SpaceQuest") wishes to clarify the circumstances relating to the existence of secondary experimental payloads on two amateur radio satellites launched by Saudi Arabia in September, 2000.

SpaceQuest provided the subsystem components for the Saudi satellites (SO-41 and SO-42), and in turn was given the opportunity in July, 2000 to provide secondary experimental payloads consisting of a UHF receiver and a UHF transmitter, to be integrated into both of these satellites. It was SpaceQuest's understanding at that time that the secondary payloads would be registered through the Saudi administration. As a result, the company did not believe FCC notification was necessary or required.

After the two Saudi amateur radio satellites were launched and were checked out successfully in orbit, SpaceQuest was given the opportunity to control and operate the experimental payloads to validate the technical feasibility and effectiveness of a future commercial low-Earth orbit satellite data network. However, to date, the experimental payloads have not been turned on nor have they been checked out, and we do not know whether or not they are functional.

Because the owners of the Saudi amateur satellites do not have the capability to operate the secondary payloads and elected not to register them, SpaceQuest took the action of filing an application with the FCC for an experimental license. The experimental license will provide SpaceQuest with authority to check out the operation of the experimental payloads and conduct some meaningful tests and experiments to evaluate the performance of these payloads.

SpaceQuest submitted its application, as referenced above, to operate the requested Space-to-Earth frequencies on April 26, 2001. We have detailed in that application how our proposed experimental program holds the promise of contributing to the advancement of the radio art and benefiting U.S. businesses and consumers alike. SpaceQuest will not generate any commercial revenue from the use of the experimental space station license.

SpaceQuest currently holds an FCC experimental Earth station license, File Number 0091-EX-PL-1999, to transmit in the frequency band from 399.90 MHz to 400.05 MHz. SpaceQuest submitted a request to modify this license, File Number 0054-EX-ML-2001, to include uplink transmissions to the experimental receivers on the two Saudi satellites.

During the past seven years, SpaceQuest has complied with all of the terms of its FCC experimental licenses and all applicable FCC regulations and procedures. However, because of the potential conflict of dual registration, SpaceQuest did not in this circumstance notify the FCC of the secondary experimental payloads. Any oversight in adhering to normally accepted FCC practices was unintentional.

I am available to provide any additional information or clarification that may be required for the FCC to review and approve SpaceQuest's space station experimental license application.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dino Lorenzini".

Dino Lorenzini  
President

CC: Ms. Ghavani