

December 23, 2003

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FILED ELECTRONICALLY

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Engineering and Technology
Experimental Licensing Branch
Washington, DC. 20554

Re: **BAE SYSTEMS Information and Electronic Systems Integration Inc.**
Application For Special Temporary Authority
File No. 0486-EX-ST-2003

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of BAE SYSTEMS Information and Electronic Systems Integration Inc. ("BAE SYSTEMS"), this letter is to accompany the attached application ("STA Request") wherein BAE SYSTEMS requests that the Commission grant special temporary authority ("STA") to permit BAE SYSTEMS to operate the facilities (the "Facilities") specified in the instant STA Request until such time as BAE SYSTEMS files with the Commission an application for permanent authority ("Application For Permanent Authority") to operate the Facilities and obtain grant of such Application For Permanent Authority.

STA is requested for a period of six (6) months from the date of grant of this STA Request, or until such time as BAE SYSTEMS files, and the Commission acts upon, the Application For Permanent Authority to be filed with the Commission BAE SYSTEMS in the near future.

In addition, in light of the short timeframe involved and the fact that the proposed operations are for implementation of military/homeland security requirements, BAE SYSTEMS hereby respectfully requests that the Commission (as well as any other governmental agencies which will be asked to review and/or coordinate the application ["Other Governmental Agencies"]) expedite review of the instant STA Request to permit the timely commencement of operations as specified by the U.S. military.

As explained in Exhibit 1 to the STA Request, BAE SYSTEMS manufactures and tests various antennas for numerous classified customers. The Facilities for which BAE SYSTEMS seeks authority to operate pursuant to this STA Request are to be operated at the Merrimack Antenna Test Range located in Merrimack, NH, as part of BAE SYSTEMS' performance of U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy and U.S. Army military contracts (collectively, "Military Contracts"). The testing at the Antenna Test Range facilities is a critical part of the manufacture and delivery of military systems provided to the Armed Forces in support of Homeland Security as well as war efforts.

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STA and expedited processing is being requested in order to obtain processing by the Commission and Other Governmental Agencies as expeditiously as possible so that the commencement of operation of the proposed facilities can occur by February 2004, consistent with the requirements of the Air Force, Navy and Army in the Military Contracts. As stated above, the testing at the Antenna Test Range facilities is a critical part of the manufacture and delivery of military systems provided to the Armed Forces in support of Homeland Security as well as war efforts, and BAE SYSTEMS is not in a position to delay the commencement of these tests. Expedited review of the STA Request and Commission grant of STA in this case will permit BAE SYSTEMS to commence operations in accordance with the Military Contracts, while permitting the Commission an opportunity to subsequently fully review and process BAE SYSTEMS' Application For Permanent Authority under ordinary timeframes and processes. As explained above, BAE SYSTEMS will be submitting to the Commission in the near future its Application For Permanent Authority seeking to operate the Facilities. STA is requested until such time as the Commission acts upon the Application for Permanent Authority.

As further explained at Exhibit 1 to the STA Request, personnel at the Merrimack Antenna Test Range responsible for obtaining Commission authority for operation of the Facilities ("Antenna Test Range Personnel") were not formally notified of the existence of the Military Contracts until August 2003. Due to personnel turnover, such Antenna Test Range Personnel were newly assigned to the Test Range when notified of the need to implement the Military Contracts and have acted as expeditiously as possible to coordinate its internal administrative processes for implementation of the Military Contracts, to identify outside counsel to assist in the preparation of the instant STA Request and the Application For Permanent Authority, gather the technical and operational information required for preparation of such applications, and prepare and submit the applications to the Commission.

For the foregoing reasons, expedited review and approval of this STA Request is in the public interest, convenience and necessity.

Should any questions arise with respect to the instant STA Request, please do not hesitate to contact undersigned counsel.



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey Rummel'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, prominent loop at the end.

Jeffrey Rummel
Attorney for BAE SYSTEMS Information and
Electronic Systems Integration Inc.