

The Office of the Chief Technology Officer of the District of Columbia (OCTO)

Request for Modification of Experimental License: Extension of the duration of the experiment license

Experimental Radio Station License - Call Sign WD2XHO

Background

In order to demonstrate that affordable technologies exist today to support critical broadband public safety applications, the District of Columbia has decided to deploy a wide area (within Washington DC city limits) broadband wireless data network that will serve as a pilot for next generation of public safety applications. The intent is to specify technology and features that best suit public safety applications requirements. To this end, the District has filed for an experimental license in January 2004.

The Office of the Chief Technology Officer of the District of Columbia (OCTO) selected Motorola and Flarion Technologies to provide, install and support a 12-site Flash OFDM broadband wireless network: the Wireless Accelerated Responders' Network (WARN).

In order to allow the vendors to deliver the equipment on an expedited fashion, a modification of the experiment license was filed and granted in August 2004. The modification did consist in swapping uplink and downlink frequencies.

In order to improve the capacity and coverage of the network, the District of Columbia filed another experiment license modification in February 2005 to integrate two additional sites in the network. This modification granted in March 2005, also extended the license to September 1st 2006.

This document requests an extension of the duration of the experimental license to July 31st 2007, for the reasons explained below.

No other changes to the authorized WD2XHO facilities are proposed.

Extend the duration of the experiment license:

Although the operations of the experimental network has started a couple of months later than expected, the capabilities this technology did already greatly benefit first responders during the Presidential Inauguration, the State of the Union, or more recently during the celebration of the 4th of July, as well as during other routine operations.

The Metropolitan Police Department, the DC Emergency Management Agency, the DC Fire and Medical Emergency Services, the DC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, The Washington Metro Area Transport Agency, the US Park Police, the US Secret Service, are all agencies that found an immediate operational usage of the deployment of this pilot network.

In particular the availability of such a network has considerably enhanced the cooperation between local and Federal public safety agencies. For instance, during the recent July 4th

celebration, the US Park Police (USPP) hosted a Multi-Agency Communication Center (MACC) at their facility. In this MACC multi-video feeds were shared between the USPP, the Red Cross, the Smithsonian Institute, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), the WMATA Police, the DC Department of Transportation, the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services, the DC Emergency Management Agency, the National Weather Service, and the Public Health Service. Out of those video feeds, WARN in particular supported video transmitted by the US Park police helicopter, a DC-FEMS video located on their command bus, as well as various traffic cameras views.

The successes of the operations of the network have triggered interest from additional federal and local agencies in participating to the pilot. The District plans to pursue the integration those agencies in the experimental program in the coming weeks.

Moreover, the perspective of accessing anytime-anywhere applications and information that were until now non-accessible, led the National Capital Region (NCR), an association of nineteen local jurisdictions in the Washington DC metropolitan area to develop a comprehensive data interoperability program, including the deployment of a 700 MHz wireless broadband public safety network.

The NCR Regional Wireless Broadband Network is envisioned to be the network that will eventually support its operational wireless data needs. However to in order to maintain critical applications accessible to first responders during the NCR network implementation and optimization phases, it will be necessary to operate for a limited duration both infrastructures (WARN and NCR network) concurrently.

As a consequence, it appears that the schedule of full execution of this pilot program needs to be extended beyond what was originally anticipated.

Therefore the District of Columbia is requesting the extension of this experimental license to July 31st 2007.