

To the Office of Engineering and Technology:

Re: Request for confidential treatment for information within Experimental License Application, File. No. 0795-EX-ST-2017

Ericsson respectfully requests that, pursuant to Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457 and 0.459, the Commission withhold from public inspection and accord confidential treatment to the antenna information contained in the Exhibit to File Number 0795-EX-ST-2017. This information qualifies as trade secrets and commercial information that falls within Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA").¹

Exemption 4 of FOIA provides that the public disclosure requirement of the statute "does not apply to matters that are . . . (4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential."² Ericsson is providing the trade secrets and commercial information "of a kind that would not customarily be released to the public" because such disclosure is necessary to obtain an STA. Therefore, this information is "confidential" under Exemption 4 of FOIA.³ Moreover, Ericsson would suffer substantial competitive harm if the identified information in our research program were disclosed.⁴

In support of this request and pursuant to Section 0.459(b) of the Commission's rules,⁵ Ericsson hereby states as follows:

1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR WHICH CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT IS SOUGHT⁶

Ericsson seeks confidential treatment for the antenna information, which is contained in the Exhibit to the application. We have provided a public version of the Exhibit in which we have redacted this information.

¹ 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4).

² *Id.*

³ *See Critical Mass Energy Project v. NRC*, 975 F.2d 871, 879 (D.C. Cir. 1992).

⁴ *See National Parks and Conservation Ass'n v. Morton*, 498 F.2d 765 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

⁵ 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b).

⁶ 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(1).



2. DESCRIPTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES GIVING RISE TO THE SUBMISSION⁷

Ericsson is submitting an application for authorization for special temporary authority to demo 5G to President Trump.

3. EXPLANATION OF THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE INFORMATION IS COMMERCIAL OR FINANCIAL, OR CONTAINS A TRADE SECRET OR IS PRIVILEGED⁸

The information for which Ericsson seeks confidential treatment contains sensitive trade secrets and commercial information “which would customarily be guarded from competitors.”⁹ Ericsson has invested finances, planning and expertise into developing the “secret commercially valuable plan” that is the program of research into 5G, and we will use this research to develop our 5G products. The testing details are part of this plan and that is not information we would disclose except for the need to obtain the STA.

4. EXPLANATION OF THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE INFORMATION CONCERNS A SERVICE THAT IS SUBJECT TO COMPETITION¹⁰

Developing network products is the core of Ericsson’s business and 5G is the next generation of network technology, which is still in the research and development stage. Ericsson faces competition in the US and globally to develop the best 5G products.

5. EXPLANATION OF HOW DISCLOSURE OF THE INFORMATION COULD RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL COMPETITIVE HARM¹¹

The release of the plan we are using to research and develop 5G products could result in competitive harm to Ericsson to the extent it became available to competitors. Disclosing the information would enable competitors to use and benefit from the investment Ericsson has made to develop the 5G program of research and to shortcut their own research processes. It would unjustly benefit our competitors to gain this insight into our research.

⁷ 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(2).

⁸ 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(3).

⁹ 47 C.F.R. § 0.457.

¹⁰ 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(4).

¹¹ 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(5).



6. IDENTIFICATION OF ANY MEASURES TAKEN BY THE SUBMITTING PARTY TO PREVENT UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE¹²

The information has been kept within Ericsson and disclosed only to personnel working on the 5G research, except as discussed in the next section. We have provided a redacted public exhibit to the application to keep the information confidential. When the information has been submitted to the FCC for other experimental licenses, it has been (and continues to be) covered by confidential treatment.

7. IDENTIFICATION OF WHETHER THE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AND THE EXTENT OF ANY PREVIOUS DISCLOSURE OF THE INFORMATION TO THIRD PARTIES¹³

The information is not available to the public. As referenced above, the antenna information has been disclosed to the FCC and NTIA when we have applied for experimental licenses to conduct 5G research. The FCC has granted confidential treatment to the information each time, and that confidential treatment is still in force. To the extent this information has been shared with customer partners as we conduct 5G research, it has been done under a nondisclosure agreement. Accordingly, Ericsson requests that the Commission accord the information covered by this Request confidential treatment under Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Commission's rules.

8. JUSTIFICATION OF THE PERIOD DURING WHICH THE SUBMITTING PARTY ASSERTS THAT MATERIAL SHOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE¹⁴

Ericsson requests that the antenna information be treated as confidential for a period of 4 years. We request this time period so that competitors cannot benefit from our research as the industry develops 5G technology. By the end of 4 years, research into 5G should have developed to an extent where disclosing this information to the public would not be a competitive risk.

¹² 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(6).

¹³ 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(7).

¹⁴ 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(8).



:

9. OTHER INFORMATION THAT ERICSSON BELIEVES MAY BE USEFUL IN ASSESSING WHETHER ITS REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIALITY SHOULD BE GRANTED¹⁵

Granting this request for confidentiality is consistent with a policy of supporting innovation and the investment necessary to conduct research.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kelley A Shields

Kelley A. Shields
Director, Government Affairs and Public Policy

¹⁵ 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(9).