

NARRATIVE

Background

Pursuant to Part 5 of the Commission's Rules (47 C.F.R. §5), General Dynamics SATCOM Technologies, Inc. ("General Dynamics") respectfully submits this application to modify its existing experimental license to operate a network using sub-meter antennas to provide a mobile satellite communications infrastructure for predominately military applications.¹ General Dynamics has been operating this Satcom-on-the-Move™ ("SOTM") system (initially using .60 meter mobile earth station antennas) since November 24, 2004, pursuant to special temporary authority ("STA"), and was subsequently granted regular experimental authorization² On July 25, 2005, General Dynamics was granted authority to modify its experimental authorization to allow for domestic testing, demonstration, and training operations via six additional satellites from all CONUS locations.³ On November 24, 2005, General Dynamics was granted authority to further modify its experimental authorization to operate three additional 2.4 meter hub stations, and to operate smaller (.45 and .50 meter) mobile earth station antennas from all locations in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii. On May 15, 2007, General Dynamics' experimental authorization was renewed.⁴ On July 25, 2008, General Dynamics was granted authority to modify its experimental authorization to allow for domestic testing, demonstration, and training operations via twelve additional satellites from all CONUS locations.⁵ On May 13, 2009, and again on April 28, 2011, General Dynamics' experimental authorization was renewed; it will now expire by its own terms on June 1, 2013.⁶

Modifications Requested and Statement of Public Interest

To accommodate increasing requests by U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, and U.S. Navy communicators for domestic testing, training, demonstration, and the development of the SOTM systems, General Dynamics hereby requests a formal modification of its existing experimental authorization to permit such operations via all satellites on the FCC's Permitted Space Station List (as set forth in Exhibit A) under the exact same technical and operating parameters as detailed in its existing experimental license. General Dynamics will also ensure that all operations via any additional satellites will fully comply with the "Special Conditions" currently imposed under this experimental license. Authority to operate on the requested additional satellites is necessary due to existing and expected capacity restrictions that will significantly jeopardize General Dynamics' ability to meet the U.S. military's growing SOTM needs. Based on the

¹ The technical information required by Section 5 of the rules is provided in the electronic form to which this letter is attached.

² File Nos. 0640-EX-ST-2004, 0123-EX-PL-2005.

³ File No. 0390-EX-ST-2005.

⁴ File No. 0088-EX-RR-2007.

⁵ File No. 0092-EX-ML-2008.

⁶ File Nos. 0111-EX-RR-2009, 0155-EX-RR-2011.

foregoing, grant of the instant modification request is necessary and will serve the public interest by contributing to the achievement of essential tactical communications that are critical to successful U.S. military engagements worldwide.

ADDITIONAL SATELLITE REQUESTED

All satellites maintained on the FCC's Permitted Space Station List pursuant to the *DISCO II First Reconsideration Order*, FCC 99-325 (released October 29, 1999) <http://transition.fcc.gov/ib/sd/se/permited.html>.