

Applicant's Qualifications and Proposed Experiments

Globalstar L.P. ("GLP"), the manager of the Globalstar non-geostationary MSS Above 1 GHz system, is applying for an experimental license to conduct tests associated with a new type of mobile earth station.¹ The Globalstar system has been authorized for construction, launch and operation in the 1610-1621.35 MHz and 2483.5 and 2500 MHz bands.² The system consists of 48 technically-identical satellites orbiting the Earth in a circular orbit plus two in-orbit spares. All of the satellites have been launched and commercial Mobile Satellite Service is currently available.

The terminals to be tested under this program are Remote Telemetry Units ("RTUs"). The Globalstar RTUs are required to be field tested to validate the performance prior to the start of the remote telemetry service. The test plan for the experimental RTUs includes testing at several locations within the USA to validate their RF performance parameters in conjunction with those of the gateway and satellite constellation. The program of tests will be conducted over the next several months to ensure that the system will be successfully deployed and tested.

The stationary and mobile RTU tests associated with this application will be occur in and around Herndon, Virginia, and Miami Beach, Florida. Experimental License WC2XWY tests the same units in different locations. There will be no more than 50 units total tested in the United States for all locations.

The tests are intended to validate:

- antenna performance and characteristics;
- transmitter performance characteristics;
- radiating pattern characteristics;
- reliability, maintainability, and availability; and,
- overall performance within the Globalstar™ system.

Conclusion

Grant of this application will permit GLP to conduct a thorough operational validation of the RTUs thorough Globalstar™ system level tests in conjunction with the gateway and satellite constellation. This test is essential to the success of the remote telemetry service within the Globalstar™ network, and enables this service to commence satisfactorily as authorized by the Commission in the Globalstar™ license and in the rules governing Above 1 GHz MSS. The information obtained from the tests will help GLP implement the remote telemetry commercial service in approximately 6 months.

¹ On February 15, 2002, Globalstar, L.P., filed a petition under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware. The existing ownership and management of Globalstar, L.P., remains unchanged at this time. Normal company operations and customer support will continue uninterrupted while Globalstar, L.P., operates under Chapter 11 protection, as Globalstar, L.P., Debtor-in-Possession.

² See Loral Qualcomm Partnership, L.P., 10 FCC Rcd 2333 (1995) (authorizing constellation and use of service links); L/Q Licensee, Inc., 11 FCC Rcd 16410 (1996) (authorizing the use of feeder links).

The public interest would be served by grant of this application. GLP is attempting to initiate a new service, and these tests will provide useful information on the performance of the system, which will promote the development and delivery of the planned global Mobile-Satellite Service to the public.