

Applicant's Qualifications and Proposed Experiments

Globalstar L.P., 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 experimental RTUs will be used throughout 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 six months to ensure that the system will be successfully deployed and tested.

The fixed and mobile RTU tests will be implemented in various locations within the United States and its possessions. 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 Globalstar to conduct a thorough operational validation of the RTUs through 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 its grant of the Globalstar™ license to L/Q Licensee, Inc. The information obtained from the tests will help Globalstar implement the remote telemetry commercial service in approximately 6 months.

The public interest would be served by grant of this application. 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.

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).