

From: Thomas Allen

To: Behnam Ghaffari
Date: August 15, 2008

Subject: FCC File No. 0328-EX-PL-2008

Message:

To: FCC Experimental Licensing Applications

From: Thomas Allen
iRobot Corporation
tallen@irobot.com
617-943-5568

Re: File Number 0328-EX-PL-2008
Confirmation Number EL705290

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is intended to address the need by iRobot for an expedited 60-month experimental license for 4.9GHz radio systems.

iRobot is a world leader in the area of military robotics, and as such, has been providing robots to the Explosives Ordinance Disposal (EOD) and infantry communities for 7 years. All legacy systems shipped were based on radios operating in unlicensed bands. In response to a request from the military, iRobot has begun selling our PackBot FasTac system with a 4.9GHz radio in order to get out of the "cluttered" unlicensed bands.

This requires iRobot to perform RF testing using these 4.9GHz radios for several reasons:

1. Development
2. Factory Acceptance Testing
3. Returned Unit Failure Analysis

Specifically with respect to #1 and #2 above, iRobot is required to test nearly 100% of our units for operational communications range prior to the government accepting shipment. This requires open range testing at a number of our facilities, called out specifically in the license application. Such testing is necessary to ensure that the user will not lose comms during an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) mitigation. This testing step is critical to provide maximum system usability and operator safety in deployed situations (and is required under the terms of our government contract).

Currently, iRobot is under contract to provide ~30 FasTac systems a month until the end of the year, with additional follow on order expected for 2009 and beyond. All of these units are under configuration control for a period of 10 years, requiring us to maintain the ability to legally test, screen, and repair these units at our CONUS facilities for as long as possible (hence the request for a 60 month license rather than a 24 month license). The urgency of this need is underscored by the fact that our systems are saving US lives right now, every day, in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In addition, iRobot has plans to market a 4.9GHz communications module to CONUS non-military customers (law enforcement, state and local agencies, TSA, etc.). This only emphasizes our need to quickly get licensed to operate, develop, and test this equipment for as long a period as possible.

Our FasTac contract is with the United States Army Program Executive Office ? Simulation, Training, and Instrumentation (PEO STRI), contract number W900KK-08-D-0033. The Defense Priority Allocation

System (DPAS) ranking for this contract is DO-C9. The PEO STRI point of contact for this contract is:

Duane St. Peter
duane.stpeter@us.army.mil
407-380-8444

In short, an expedited 60-month license is required by iRobot so that we can continue to provide the cutting edge, life saving technology in a timely fashion to the United States warfighter or state/local officials. We are doing our part to save lives and protect our country, and this license is a crucial part of that effort.

If there are any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the information listed above.
Regards,

Thomas Allen
Manager, Common Systems
iRobot Corporation