

## **PUBLIC INTEREST AND NATIONAL SECURITY STATEMENT**

### **NIITEK INC. APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY 0804-EX-ST-2012**

NIITEK requests expeditious grant of its STA application for a period of six months to test and develop its the radio link in connection with its Landmine Detection System for use by the U.S. Army deployed for combat in the Middle East. Expeditious grant of the STA application is in the public interest and essential to national security because the radio link is a critical component of the system used to detect landmines, IEDs, and other explosive devices, ensuring the continued safety of U.S. soldiers. The FCC granted NIITEKs prior STA requests for a Ground Penetrating Radar used in connection with the same Landmine Detection System, as well as its radio components. *See, e.g.*, Notification from OET that STA Granted to NIITEK, Inc. in File No. 0527-EX-ST-2012 (2/25/2012); File No. 0253-EX-ST-2011. In addition, the FCC has recognized the important public interest in supporting the critical needs of U.S. military forces, and has granted STAs on that basis. *See In the Matter of Request for Special Temporary Authority, Iridium Constellation, LLC*, Order, 19 FCC Rcd. 10404 ¶¶ 1, 15 (2004) (granting STA to operate mobile satellite service outside applicant's initial authorization to "further[] important public interest requirements by supporting the critical communications needs of U.S. forces in Iraq and the Middle East region" and "[i]n light of serious national interests at stake").

As reported by numerous news outlets, landmines and IEDs cause substantial injury and death to foreign civilians and U.S. soldiers (as well as military forces from other countries).<sup>1</sup> The United States' concerns about the dangers of landmines to its soldiers, relief workers and innocent civilians are well documented. According to the most recent report on the United States' Commitment to Conventional Weapons Destruction,<sup>2</sup> the U.S. leads the world in providing mine-action assistance. Since 1993, the U.S. has provided \$1.8 billion for landmine removal (as well as conventional weapons destruction and stockpile security and management) in more than 80 countries.

Expeditious grant of NIITEK's STA application will further the United States' efforts in detecting and removing landmines, IEDS and other explosive devices in the Middle East. Moreover, as noted above, NIITEK's STA request is limited to testing the radio link in one location within the United States, thereby minimizing the potential for interference, if any, to other devices. Actual operational use will be performed by the U.S. Army outside the United States only. In light of the serious national interests at stake, expeditious grant of NIITEK's STA application will further important public interest requirements by ensuring the safety and security of U.S. forces in the Middle East.

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<sup>1</sup> *See, e.g.*, Lindsay Wise, *A Version of Hurt Locker-Texas Guard unit takes on risks of disabling roadside bombs*, Houston Chronicle, Aug. 15, 2010 (reporting that underground IEDs (improvised explosive devices) cause about 75 percent of casualties to NATO troops in Afghanistan).

<sup>2</sup> *See To Walk The Earth In Safety*, United States Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (9th ed., July 2010).