

5-3526-EX-1998

BAT-9809-001
September 18, 1998

dl.

ORIGINAL

Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Experimental Radio Services
P.O. Box 358320
Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5315

8-3395-98 *plm 3317?*

Re: ORBITAL -- Request for Renewal of Special Temporary
Authority to Operate ORBITAL's Earth Station at Higher Power

Dear Ms. Salas:

Orbital Sciences Corporation ("ORBITAL") has received experimental authority in connection with a satellite that incorporates a payload conducting tests in the Ka band (Call Sign WA2XGO). ORBITAL also received special temporary authority ("STA") to allow its Earth station TT&C links communicating with the satellite in the 450 MHz band to operate at a higher power level. In particular, ORBITAL was authorized to operate its Earth station at a power level up to 46 dBW (an increase over the 29 dBW authorized currently). That STA is scheduled to expire on October 1, 1998. ORBITAL hereby requests renewal of its STA for a six month period.

Although some of the communications capabilities of the experimental satellite have been restored, ORBITAL has continued to experience some anomalies with the satellite, and the higher power level has allowed enhanced communications links with the satellite while further attempted corrections are implemented. ORBITAL wants to continue transmitting at the higher power levels. In light of the nature of low-Earth orbit satellites, the spacecraft will be in view of the Earth station for only brief durations. As a result, it is critical that robust transmission links can be established during those times when the satellite is in view, and the increased power will ensure such capabilities. To date, ORBITAL has corrected a problem with one of the solar panels, and believes that continued higher-power operations will ensure communications that are sufficient to allow the experimental satellite to function effectively. ORBITAL does not seek any changes to its experimental authorization under this STA. Grant of the requested renewal of the STA will thus further the public interest by facilitating the successful operation of ORBITAL's experimental program.

ORBITAL does not anticipate any risk of harmful interference as a result of renewal of the STA. ORBITAL has not had any reports of interference under the currently authorized higher-power operations. The transmissions will only occur for brief

periods while the satellite is in view. In addition, the transmissions will be supervised by qualified individuals, and the transmissions can be terminated if there are any reports of harmful interference. The 24-hour point of contact for this experimental program is Wayne Denier at telephone number (703) 406-5659 (o) and (301) 371-4775 (h); Mr. Denier's pager number can be provided to you in the near future.

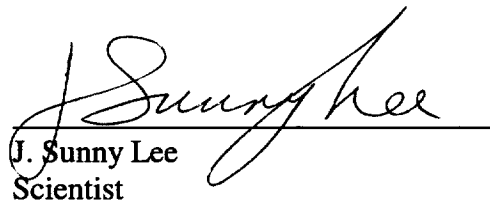
ORBITAL hereby certifies that no party to this application is subject to a denial of federal benefits pursuant to Section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, 21 U.S.C. § 853a. ORBITAL also waives any claim to the use of any particular frequency or of the electromagnetic spectrum as against the regulatory power of the United States because of the previous use of the same, whether by license or otherwise.

For the foregoing reasons, ORBITAL respectfully requests renewal of its special temporary authority to operate its Earth station at the higher power level (46 dBW) for communications with its low-Earth orbiting satellite over a period of up to six months.

Respectfully submitted,

Orbital Sciences Corporation

By:


J. Sunny Lee
Scientist

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September 18, 1998

THOMAS J. SUGRUE
JOEL BERNSTEIN
J. RANDALL COOK
RICHARD T. WHITE, JR.

Via Hand Delivery

Mr. Carl Huie
Experimental Licensing Branch
Office of Engineering and Technology
Federal Communications Commission
2000 M Street, N.W., Room 230
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Experimental STA for Orbital Sciences Corporation

5339598?

Carl
Dear ~~Mr.~~ Huie:

Enclosed please find a copy of a request for renewal of an experimental special temporary authority ("STA") for Orbital Sciences Corporation ("ORBITAL"). As explained in that request, the STA has allowed ORBITAL to operate its command uplinks at a higher power level to ensure an effective communications link during the limited time the low-Earth orbit satellite is within range of ORBITAL's Earth station. The STA is set to expire on October 1, 1998, and the renewal will permit this beneficial experimental program to continue. The application (including the original signature) and fees are being submitted concurrently in Pittsburgh, but I did not want your review to be delayed while the forms made their way down from Pennsylvania.

Please call me or Sunny Lee (703/406-5988) if you have any questions concerning this experimental STA renewal application. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Goodman
Stephen L. Goodman

Enclosure