

**DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION  
AND REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION**

By this application, Pallotta Teamworks (“Pallotta”) seeks authority to operate an experimental very small aperture terminal (“VSAT”) network in conventional Ku-band frequencies. Pallotta seeks to operate this network to operate and test the capabilities of using transportable VSAT earth stations to provide telecommunications services during fund raising events. In view of the pressing need to develop new mobile communications systems for rapid deployment, Pallotta requests expedited treatment for its application. For the reasons set forth herein, grant of Pallotta’s experimental application and related request for exemption would strongly serve the public interest.

Pallotta seeks an FCC authorization to operate an experimental VSAT network composed of a single hub earth station to be located at Pallotta’s facility in Los Angeles, and up to 2 transportable remote terminals that will operate at various locations within the continental United States.<sup>1</sup> Pallotta proposes to operate and test the use of transportable Ku-band VSAT earth stations to provide communications services primarily in fund raising events for charity but maybe tested for other reasons. For example, a commercial enterprise with multiple outlets could store one or more transportable VSAT terminals at a regional headquarters facility and deploy the terminals to individual outlets as needed provide communications services.

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<sup>1</sup> The VSAT remote terminals are “transportable” because they can be moved from one location to another and be deployed to provide communications services on an as-needed basis.

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Alternatively, individual outlets could store a VSAT remote terminal and deploy it quickly in the event of an outage of its primary communications network or service.

The VSAT hub and transportable remote terminals will operate in conventional Ku-band frequencies (14.0-14.5 GHz uplink, 11.7-12.2 GHz downlink) and will communicate with the U.S.-licensed Telstar 5 satellite located in the 97°W orbit location. Because these bands are allocated exclusively to the fixed-satellite service (“FSS”) on a primary basis, Pallotta’s proposed operations raise no coordination issues with respect to co-frequency operations of other services. In addition, because Pallotta will comply with all rules applicable to VSAT operations in these bands, and because the earth station Pallotta proposes to use in its experimental VSAT network comply with the antenna performance standards set forth in Section 25.209 of the rules and other applicable FCC requirements, there is no possibility of interference to other primary FSS operations.<sup>2</sup>

The FCC rules provide that experimental licenses may be granted for a variety of circumstances, including (i) for technical demonstration of equipment or techniques; (ii) testing of equipment in connection with production or regulatory approval of such equipment.<sup>3</sup>

Pallotta’s request for experimental authority satisfies both of these criteria. Pallotta proposes to

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However, the remote terminals will operate only when properly deployed as fixed VSAT earth stations.

<sup>2</sup> Pallotta proposes to use only commercial, off-the-shelf VSAT hub and transportable remote earth stations that have been certified for compliance with the FCC’s rules by the various manufacturers.

<sup>3</sup> See 47 C.F.R. §5.3.

demonstrate that transportable Ku-band earth stations can be successfully utilized as VSAT remote terminals to provide communications services on an as-needed basis. To the extent its testing and demonstrations are successful, Pallotta intends to pursue permanent FCC authority to operate one or more transportable VSAT networks.

The use of transportable Ku-band earth stations in a VSAT configuration for service restoration purposes is an important area of research and experimentation that will afford substantial public benefits if demonstrated to be viable. Accordingly, FCC grant of the experimental operating authority requested herein would serve the public interest by permitting Pallotta to validate this innovative concept and to address potential operational issues, thereby providing a new approach to providing remote communications services to U.S. telecommunications customers.

In connection with this experimental application, Pallotta requests an exemption from Section 5.115 of the Commission's rules. That provision states that each class of station in the experimental services shall, unless specifically exempted by the terms of the station authorization, transmit its experimental call sign at the end of each complete transmission. Pallotta submits that it should be exempt from this requirement because the unique operational circumstances of its experimental transportable VSAT network make application of these rules entirely unnecessary and unduly burdensome.

As noted above, Pallotta proposes to operate its experimental VSAT network in primary FSS spectrum in the conventional Ku-band, and all of its earth stations comply with the FCC's antenna performance specifications and other earth station rules. Thus, there is no possibility of

interference to other services or to other FSS operations in the bands.<sup>4</sup> As a result, there is no need to require Pallotta to transmit station identification information from each of its proposed earth stations after every transmission, nor would any public benefit result from such a requirement.

Moreover, imposing such a requirement on Pallotta in the context of its proposed experimental operations would be unduly burdensome. Each of the earth stations to be used by Pallotta are commercial, off-the-shelf items that are not capable of transmitting station identification information after each transmission. Moreover, the transportable VSAT remote terminals will transmit intermittently depending on the communications be carried during demonstration operations, making it impossible to transmit station identification information at the end of each individual transmission. Finally, Pallotta seeks to demonstrate its experimental VSAT network under “real world” conditions in order to validate its new communications concept. Significantly modifying standard earth station equipment (if it is even possible) or operational procedures would substantially undermine Pallotta’s “proof of concept” testing, which would be contrary to the public interest given the potential benefits of Pallotta’s transportable VSAT network. Accordingly, Pallotta respectfully requests that the Commission grant an exemption from the station identification requirement of Section 5.115 of the rules.

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<sup>4</sup> Indeed, earth stations operating under Part 25 of the FCC rules are not subject to such station identification requirements. *See* 47 C.F.R. §25.206.