

Narrative Statement

Through this application, The Boeing Company ("Boeing") requests that the Commission grant Boeing continued experimental authority to operate two 1.0 meter Norsat GlobeTrekker antennas for testing purposes associated with Boeing's Aeronautical Mobile-Satellite Service ("AMSS") system. The Commission has already granted Boeing authority to operate these antennas throughout CONUS, Alaska, Hawaii, and U.S. territories under experimental special temporary authority ("STA") (*see* Call Sign WC9XLV, File No. 0524-EX-ST-2006) and Boeing seeks to operate pursuant to the same terms and conditions set forth in its STA.

As the Commission is aware, Boeing has a contract with the U.S. Air Force Materiel Command ("AFMC"), Contract No. F33657-01-D-0013, to provide, among other things, broadband communications to U.S. Government aircraft. Pursuant to this contract, Boeing has provisioned AMSS antennas on thirteen VIP/SAM (Very Important Personnel/Special Air Mission) aircraft operated by the U.S. Air Force Air Mobility Command to transport senior leadership of the U.S. Government and the Department of Defense. Boeing is in the process of finalizing a contract extension that covers service to the U.S. Government through late 2008.

Boeing created portable test platform using transportable Ku-band earth station antennas to test transponder coverage at remote locations because the aircraft Boeing had used to test its AMSS system has been decommissioned. Since grant of its prior STA, Boeing has primarily utilized the Norsat GlobeTrekker terminal for testing because it is highly portable. Accordingly, Boeing does not request continued authority to operate the 1.2 meter Norsat SecureLink terminal.

In its previous application, Boeing demonstrated compliance with the Commission's two-degree spacing policies and has attached the data submitted with its prior STA application for incorporation in this proceeding. Thus, with the exception of eliminating the 1.2 meter antenna type included in its prior authority, there are no technical or operational differences between this application and the previously granted STA application.

The continued testing operations proposed herein are in direct support of Boeing's AMSS service to the U.S. government (*see* Call Sign WC2XVE (various file numbers)), and the same public interest reasons supporting grant of Boeing's AMSS authority support grant of the instant application. Further, given the relationship between these operations and Boeing's AMSS operations, as well as the term of its contract extension, Boeing has filed this application in the same time frame as its AMSS renewal application (*see* File No. 0254-EX-RR-2006) and as an experimental authorization -- rather than STA request -- to permit grant of a two-year operating period through 2008.

Finally, given the need for service continuity to U.S. Government users, Boeing respectfully requests that the Commission grant Boeing continued authority to conduct the operations requested herein at the earliest possible time.