



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Office of Space Commerce
Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20230

August 7, 2026

Hannah Tanquary
Systems Engineer
University of Arizona
2831 E. 21st St.
Tuscon, AZ 85716

via: hetanquary@arizona.edu

Subject: NOAA Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs License Inquiry

Dear Ms. Tanquary:

Pursuant to 15 C.F.R. § 960.5(a), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs (CRSRA) has reviewed your Initial Contact Form, submitted on July 14, 2026, and additional information submitted to CRSRA on August 3, 2026 concerning the proposed Aspera system ("the system"). Under the authority of the Secretary of Commerce under 51 U.S.C. § 60101 *et seq.*, as delegated, and 15 C.F.R. Part 960, we have determined that the system as described in your Initial Contact Form qualifies for a licensing exemption under 15 C.F.R. § 960.2(b). This determination was made based upon your representation that the system's remote sensing instruments will be used in lieu of a traditional star tracker to perform attitude determination. As a result of its spectral range, the main science instrument has additionally been found to be unable to collect unenhanced data that can be processed into imagery of surface features of the Earth, and therefore does not require a license. 15 C.F.R. § 960.4.

If the factual circumstances of the information provided change, please submit a new Initial Contact Form, as the operation of the system may require a license. Additionally, please contact CRSRA regarding any future systems you may plan to operate in order to obtain a licensing determination on that specific system and its mission.

Please refer any questions regarding this determination by email to CRSRA@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Sarah C. Brothers, Ph.D.
Director, Commercial Remote
Sensing Regulatory Affairs

cc: crsra@noaa.gov