

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

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In the Matter of the Application of

ORBITAL COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION)
)
For Authority to)
Construct a Low-Orbit Mobile)
Satellite System)

File No. 22-DSS-MP-90(20)

JUN 13 1991

DOMESTIC FACILITIES DIVISION
MAIL BRANCH

COMMENTS

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I. Background and Statement of Interest

JUN 11 1991

The Virginia Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) is a non-profit corporation established by the Virginia legislature to enhance economic development in Virginia through development, transfer, and utilization of its technological resources. CIT operates and funds four research institutes, ten technology development centers, and eighteen technology transfer and business

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assistance centers throughout the state. In addition, CIT is attempting to foster the growth of commercial space activities within Virginia, especially in the small satellite field.

In 1989, CIT and Orbital Sciences Corporation entered into an agreement to develop and launch a small satellite for use by CIT and Virginia universities to explore the use of low earth orbit satellites for application in environmental monitoring, data collection, and message relay. We believe this agreement fostered the development of innovative small satellite system solutions to solve problems on earth. We see the ORBCOMM system as the logical and necessary follow-on to the development of new

and innovative low-earth orbit satellite technology for commercial purposes.

The introduction of ORBCOMM services would provide tangible economic benefit to Virginia as well as offer a service that Virginia researchers, agencies, and companies might use for their own productivity enhancement. For example, the ORBCOMM service would offer new ways to gather data on the Chesapeake Bay, one of the countries most resource rich ecological system. Timely relay of special environmental parameters are now time consuming if they are even done at all. ORBCOMM's system could provide new opportunities for this data collection by researchers and environmentalists. The ORBCOMM system could also help relay messages from remote Virginia sites where groups such as state police, forestry, and natural resource agencies are out of direct radio contact and need to send short messages which are sometimes life critical. Additionally, Virginia could use the ORBCOMM system to monitor traffic type and patterns on state highways in a new efficient way that was unavailable before.

II. Comments

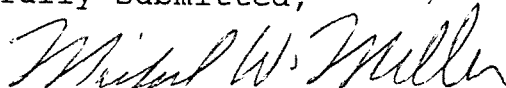
CIT believes the system proposal by ORBCOMM will bring new and reliable services to Virginia and the United States and therefore we support ORBCOMM's request for authority to construct the system. We urge the Commission to act to expedite the licensing process so that the innovative potential public and life-saving services can be available without delay. We urge the Commission

to authorize construction immediately and without the delays normally associated with a comparative process so the important benefits to Virginia citizens and public agencies to be made available by the system will not be jeopardized.

III. Summary

In summary, the Virginia Center for Innovative Technology believes the ORBCOMM system would be beneficial and provide important and useful service to Virginia and CIT and we urge the Commission to act to expeditiously grant authority to construct the system.

Respectfully submitted,



Virginia Center for Innovative Technology
Michael W. Miller
CIT Building
Suite 600
2214 Rock Hill Rd.
Herndon, VA 22070
(703) 689-3043

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