

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

PUBLIC NOTICE

Report No. DS-982

Released: July 16, 1990

**LOW EARTH ORBIT SATELLITE APPLICATION
ACCEPTABLE FOR FILING;
CUT - OFF ESTABLISHED FOR
ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS**

The Commission has found, upon initial review, that the following application filed by Starsys, Inc. (Starsys) for authority to construct a low earth orbit satellite system is acceptable for filing. The Commission reserves the right to return this application, however, if, upon further review, it is determined that it is defective or not in conformance with the Commission's rules, regulations and policies.

STARSYS, INC.

File No. 33-DSS-P-90(24)

Application for authority to construct 24 small satellites that are intended to operate in inclined (between 50 and 60 degrees), non-geostationary, low earth orbits approximately 1300 kilometers above the earth. The system is intended to provide two-way data communications and position determination services to mobile and fixed users throughout the United States. To operate its system, Starsys proposes to use spread spectrum techniques in the following VHF band frequencies:

Earth-to-space: 148.0 to 149.0 MHz

Space-to-Earth: 137.0 to 138.0 MHz

In the event that a non-spread spectrum basis is selected by the Commission, Starsys proposes to use the 148-148.411 MHz band for uplink transmissions and the 137-137.509 MHz band for downlink transmissions. [Starsys filed a petition for Rule Making to allocate these frequencies to its proposed services on a "modified primary basis." See Public Notice Report No. 1817 (June 18, 1990), RM-7399.] Communications are to consist of messages up to thirty-two characters in either the send or receive directions. Longer messages of up to 100 characters may be sent in separate packets and are to be assembled into an integrated whole message in the user terminal logic circuitry. Position location information may also be sent via the "voice locator" service, which translates position information into human language. Starsys proposes to sell its services on a non-common carrier basis in bulk to providers of related products who will, in turn, make the services available to individual customers. Service is to be provided through low-cost, portable transceivers. Services proposed to be offered include emergency services, monitoring services, tracking services, messaging services, and interconnection with the

public switched telephone network. Starsys states that all twenty-four satellites will be launched within four years after Commission authorization.

Comments or petitions regarding Starsys's application may be filed on or before August 17, 1990. Replies and oppositions may be filed on or before September 3, 1990. Responses may be filed on or before September 21, 1990.

Interested parties wishing to file applications for low earth orbit satellite systems to operate in the 148.0-149.0 MHz and 137.0-138.0 MHz bands to be considered concurrently with Starsys's and Orbital Communications Corporation's (see Public Notice DS-953, April 11, 1990) may do so on or before September 21, 1990. Each applicant must file a concrete, comprehensive proposal for its proposed low earth orbit satellite system, describing in detail all pertinent technical and operational aspects of the system, the proposed services (e.g., fixed, mobile, data, voice), and its ability to proceed expeditiously with construction and launch. In particular, applicants shall provide all information specified in Appendix B of *Space Station Application Filing Procedures*, 48 Fed. Reg. 40256 (September 6, 1983), as appropriate. Applications that fail to comport with these requirements as of the cut-off date will be dismissed as unacceptable for filing. Applicants filing by the cut-off date will be afforded an opportunity to amend their applications, if necessary, to conform with any requirements and policies that may be adopted for a low-earth orbit satellite service in either the frequency allocation or licensing portions of this proceeding.

For further information, contact Fern Jarmulnek or Kathleen Campbell at (202) 634-1624.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION