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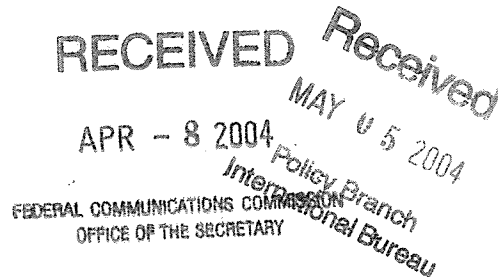
ASSOCIATED OFFICES

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VIA HAND DELIVERY

April 8, 2004

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
c/o 236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E.
Suite 110
Washington, D.C. 20002



Re: Amendment to the Application of AfriSpace, Inc. For Authority to Construct, Launch and Operate a Subregional Africa and Middle Eastern Satellite Sound Broadcasting Transmission System, File Nos. CSS-90-017; IBFS File Nos. SAT-LOA-19900723-00002; SAT-AMD-19990125-00016. (S2316)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

We are writing to you on behalf of AfriSpace, Inc., the licensee for the AfriStar satellite, currently operating as a private satellite system in the Broadcasting Satellite Service(Sound) radio frequency band from the orbital location of 21° East.

AfriSpace received its license from the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or the "Commission") on December 17, 1999, to serve the Africa and Middle East regions. However, as a U.S.-licensed satellite system, AfriStar falls under the Commission's general policies governing satellite services. In this regard, in its *DISCO I Report and Order*,¹ the Commission gave U.S. satellite operators the flexibility to serve any market within their satellites' footprint, provided the United States' international obligations to coordinate the spacecraft are satisfied.

¹ See Amendment to the Commission's Regulatory Policy Governing Domestic Fixed Satellites and Separate International Satellite Systems, Report and Order, 11 FCC Rcd 2429(1996) (*DISCO I Report and Order*).

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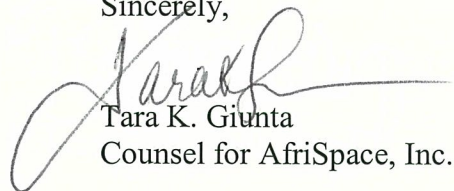
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AfriStar has been fully coordinated for service throughout its service region, as defined under the coordination procedures of the International Telecommunication Union ("ITU"), which includes not only the Middle East and Africa, but also portions of South Asia and Western Europe. There have been no complaints of harmful interference since the satellite was brought into service, as that term is defined by the ITU, in January 1999. Its notification under ITU rules has been filed and awaits publication.

AfriSpace does not intend to change the satellite's technical parameters in any manner which would increase the risk that it would cause harmful interference within its service region or beyond. Therefore, given the status of its coordination and the expansive policy guidance given by the Commission in the *DISCO I Report and Order*, AfriSpace hereby notifies the Commission that it intends to provide service to all regions within the satellite's -8 dB roll-off of its three downlink beams, as shown in the captioned Amendment and as coordinated through the ITU.

If you have any questions regarding any portion of the foregoing, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Tara K. Giunta
Counsel for AfriSpace, Inc.

cc. Thomas Tycz, FCC
Fern Jarmulnek, FCC
Jennifer Gilsenan, FCC

Donald Frickel, WorldSpace
Gian-Paolo Cantarella, WorldSpace
Tedros Lemma, WorldSpace