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May 3, 1999

RECEIVED

MAY 3 1999

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W. TW-A325  
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

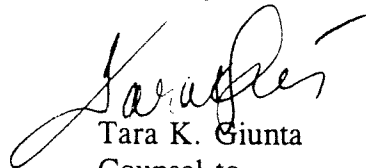
Re: Application of AfriSpace, Inc. For Authority Launch and Operate a Satellite  
Sound Broadcasting Transmission System, File No. CSS-90-017;  
IBFS File Nos. SAT-LOA-19900723-00002; SAT-AMD-19990125-00016

Dear Ms. Salas:

Enclosed for filing with the Commission please find an original and four (4) copies of a letter from de Union des Radiodiffusions et Télévisions Nationales d'Afrique ("URTNA") in support of AfriSpace, Inc's Amendment to its Application for Authority to Launch and Operate a Satellite Sound Broadcasting Transmission System. Since the original letter is in French, an unofficial translation is included. We ask that this letter be incorporated as part of the public record in the above-captioned proceedings.

Should there be any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Tara K. Giunta  
Counsel to  
WorldSpace, Inc. and  
AfriSpace, Inc.

Encl.

UNION DES RADIODIFFUSIONS ET TÉLÉVISIONS NATIONALES D'AFRIQUE

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V/Réf.

N/Réf. URTNA/SGP/238/99

Dakar, 27 AVR. 1999

Mademoiselle Magalie Roman SALAS  
Secrétaire  
Commission Fédérale des Communications  
The Portals - 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street S.W.  
WASHINGTON DC 20554 - (U.S.A.)

**Objet :** Demande d'AfriSpace Inc. pour l'autorisation de lancer et de faire fonctionner un système de transmission de Radiodiffusion Sonore par Satellite pour l'Afrique, dossier n° CSS690-017 (IBFS dossier n° SAT-LOA-19900723-00002); Amendement dossier n° SAT-AMD-19990125-000016 (Signal d'appel 52367).

Chère Mademoiselle,

J'ai le plaisir de vous communiquer les commentaires suivants au nom de l'Union des Radiodiffusions et Télévisions Nationales d'Afrique (URTNA) pour soutenir la demande citée en objet.

L'URTNA est une organisation professionnelle comptant plus de 48 organismes membres actifs, qui se consacre au développement de tous les aspects de la radio/TV en Afrique. Sont membres de l'URTNA, les organismes nationaux de radio et de télévision des états africains membres de l'OUA. Nos textes permettent également l'admission d'organismes de pays non africains en qualité de membres associés et WorldSpace Inc., organisation-mère d'AfriSpace Inc. est membre associé depuis 1996.

Parmi les activités de l'URTNA, on peut citer les actions visant à encourager les échanges de programmes locaux par satellite, les efforts déployés pour obtenir des tarifs préférentiels à même de faciliter les échanges de nouvelles et de programmes, la défense du point de vue de l'Afrique sur les questions juridiques, telles que les conventions et les accords internationaux ayant trait à la communication, les relations professionnelles avec l'Union Internationale des Télécommunications (UIT) et bien d'autres organismes ayant en charge la Radiodiffusion dans le continent et en dehors.

L'URTNA est d'avis que le système satellite d'AfriSpace aidera à accélérer les efforts de développement en Afrique en rendant l'information plus accessible aux populations historiquement non desservies. Puisque le service parviendra aux usagers destinataires sous forme de son, ce système est idéal pour les populations où l'alphabétisation demeure une préoccupation. Les grandes empreintes du satellite AfriSpace permettront également aux populations des zones les plus reculées du continent de recevoir des informations d'une importance vitale pour le développement dans des domaines tels que les soins de santé, l'éducation et l'économie.

.../...

Pour terminer, l'URTNA souhaite vivement que la Commission Fédérale des Communications prenne une décision favorable sur cette question.

Je vous prie de croire, Mademoiselle, à l'expression de mes sentiments distingués.

Abdelhamid BOUKSANT  
Secrétaire général

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by several vertical strokes and a final flourish.

[UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION]

URTNA

Union of National Radio and Television Organizations of Africa  
Address: 101, Rue Carnot - Dakar, Senegal  
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Your Ref:  
Our Ref: URTNA/SGP/238/99

Dakar, 27 April 1999

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals - 445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554 - (USA)

Re: In the Matter of Application of AfriSpace Inc., for Authority to Launch and Operate a Satellite Sound Broadcasting Transmission System, File No. CSS-90-017 (IBFS File No. SAT-LOA-19900723-00002]; Amendment File No. SAT-AMD-19990125-000016 (Call Sign 52367)

Dear Madam,

I am pleased to offer the following comments on behalf of the Union of National Radio and Television Organizations of Africa (URTNA), in support of the above captioned matter.

URTNA is a professional body with more than 48 active member organizations committed to the development of all aspects of broadcasting in Africa. URTNA's membership is composed of the national radio and television organizations of African states that are members of the OAU. Our rules also allow organizations from non-African countries to join as associate members and WorldSpace, Inc., the parent of AfriSpace, Inc., has been an associate member since 1996.

Among the activities of URTNA are encouraging the exchange of indigenous programming via satellite; striving to obtain preferential tariffs to facilitate news and programs exchanges; representing the African point of view on legal matters, such as

[UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION]

communications conventions and agreements; and professional relations with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and other organizations in charge of Radio in Africa and other places.

URTNA believes that the AfriSpace satellite system will help accelerate development efforts in Africa by making information more accessible to historically underserved populations. Since the service will reach end users in the form of sound, the system is ideal for populations where literacy remains a concern. The large footprints of the AfriSpace satellite will also allow people living in remote areas throughout the continent to receive informative programming that is critical to improvements in areas such as health care, education and the economy.

In closing, URTNA urges the Federal Communications Commission to render a favorable decision in the above captioned matter.

Please accept, Madam, my highest regards.

Abdelhamid BOUKSANI  
Secretary General

[Seal]

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Christine L. Zepka, hereby certify that on this 3rd day of May, 1999, a true and correct copy of the foregoing "Letter of Support" was sent by first class U.S. mail, postage prepaid, to the following parties:

Chairman William E. Kennard\*  
Federal Communications Commission  
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Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth\*  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W. Room 8-A302  
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Commissioner Susan Ness\*  
Federal Communications Commission  
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Commissioner Michael Powell\*  
Federal Communications Commission  
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Commissioner Gloria Tristani\*  
Federal Communications Commission  
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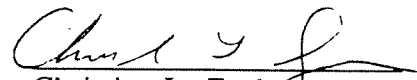
Ambassador Vonya McCann  
United States Department of State, EB/CIP  
Bureau of International Communications  
and Information Policy  
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Counsel to Aerospace & Flight Test Radio  
Coordinating Council

  
Christine L. Zepka

\* Hand delivered