

June 19, 2018

VIA IBFS

Jose Albuquerque
Chief, Satellite Division
International Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Letter
File No. SAT-LOA-20170508-00071

Dear Mr. Albuquerque:

Astro Digital US, Inc. (“Astro Digital”), by its counsel, responds to the June 4, 2018 letter (“Iridium Letter”) filed by Iridium Constellation LLC (“Iridium”).¹ Iridium’s Letter effectively seeks reconsideration of the December 2017 decision of the International Bureau (“Bureau”) granting Astro Digital authority to use Globalstar-assigned Mobile-Satellite Service (“MSS”) frequencies for inter-satellite links (“ISLs”).² The Bureau should summarily dismiss the request, which was submitted approximately five months after the deadline for filing petitions for reconsideration and did not include, much less justify, a waiver of that deadline.³

In any event, the Bureau expressly rejected Iridium’s interference concerns in granting in part Astro Digital’s application, stating specifically:

[T]here is no co-frequency sharing with Iridium. Regarding adjacent band sharing, Astro Digital will operate these links pursuant to Globalstar’s authorizations. In addition, based on our analysis, Astro Digital’s out-of-channel emission in the nearest Iridium channel would result in a carrier-to-interference ratio of approximately 32 dB. As a result we conclude that the impact of Astro Digital’s out-of-channel emission on Iridium’s operations would be negligible.⁴

¹ Letter from Maureen C. McLaughlin, Vice President, Public Policy and Joseph A. Godles, Attorney for Iridium Constellation LLC to Mr. Jose P. Albuquerque, Chief, Satellite Division, IBFS File No, SAT-LOA-20170508-00071 (June 4, 2018) (“Iridium Letter”).

² Stamp Grant, Dec. 14, 2017, as modified on Apr. 12, 2018, SAT-LOA-20170508-00071, Call Sign S3014, at n.3 (“2017 Grant”).

³ Petitions for reconsideration should have been filed by January 22, 2018. See 47 C.F.R. § 1.106. Ironically, the Iridium Letter argues that the Bureau appears to have overlooked a November 2017 letter Iridium filed, which itself was an untimely filed reply pleading. See Iridium Letter at 2 (citing Letter from Maureen C. McLaughlin, Vice President, Public Policy and Joseph A. Godles, Attorney for Iridium Constellation LLC to Mr. Jose P. Albuquerque, Chief, Satellite Division, IBFS File No, SAT-LOA-20170508-00071 (Nov. 21, 2017)); see also 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.45(c), 25.154(d).

⁴ 2017 Grant at n. 3. As Astro Digital explained in its consolidated opposition and response, a number of factors ensure that the use of the 1615-1617.775 MHz band for ISLs will not cause harmful interference to Iridium: (1) the incumbent operator, Globalstar, uses closed-loop power controls to manage power flux density; (2) Astro Digital only operates on Globalstar’s exclusive frequencies; and (3) the Globalstar

Accordingly, there is no merit to Iridium's challenge to Astro Digital's use of Globalstar-assigned MSS frequencies for ISLs.⁵

Respectfully submitted,

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modem's out-of-channel emissions are 24-32 dB below international standards governing the out-of-channel emissions mask. Consolidated Opposition and Response, Astro Digital, SAT-LOA-20170508-00071 (Oct. 11, 2017), at 4-5; see also Letter from Chris Bidy, Chief Executive Officer, Astro Digital US, Inc., to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, IBFS File No. SAT-LOA-20170508-00071 (Jul. 27, 2017). Nothing in the Bureau's 2017 Grant suggests its conclusion was specific only to the first Astro Digital satellite. Indeed, the Bureau's decision to defer action on the remaining 29 satellites in the Astro Digital constellation was based on the company's need to complete coordination with Federal users in the applicable UHF, S-band, and Ka-band frequencies and, importantly, had nothing to do with Iridium's interference objections.

⁵ The Bureau should also reject Iridium's requests that the Bureau defer the Astro Digital application until the Commission reaches a formal decision on the use of ISLs in non-ISL bands. Iridium Letter at 2. Iridium's request is inconsistent with Commission policy to facilitate the introduction of innovative services. See, e.g., *Higher Ground LLC*, Order and Authorization, 32 FCC Rcd 728, 737 (2017) ("[T]he Commission supports innovative ways to share spectrum without interfering with other users"). Moreover, Iridium's request is inconsistent with its own actions and on that basis alone should be rejected. See, e.g., *Iridium Satellite LLC*, ELS File No. 0064-EX-ST-2015 (granted Jan. 22, 2015) (seeking authority to communicate with Iridium's space stations for ISL); *Thomas Jefferson High School Partnership Fund*, ELS File No. 0460-EX-CN-2018 (filed June 11, 2018) (same).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Ryan Thompson, hereby certify that, on June 19, 2018, a true and correct copy of the foregoing letter was sent by United States mail, first-class postage prepaid, to the following:

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