

April 11, 2017

File Number: 48HH-246229

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Response to SpaceX Letter Dated April 4, 2017
IBFS File Nos. SAT-LOI-20160428-00041; SAT-LOI-20170301-00031

Dear Ms. Dortch:

WorldVu Satellites Limited (“OneWeb”), by counsel, hereby responds to the letter submitted by SpaceX on April 4, 2017 (the “SpaceX Letter”) regarding OneWeb’s above-referenced applications for U.S. market access.¹

SpaceX’s argument that OneWeb is required under Section 1.65 of the Commission’s rules to update its ownership information based on a possible future corporate transaction involving Intelsat – which may or may not happen – misreads the Section and puts the cart before the horse. Section 1.65 imposes a duty on applicants to update the Commission after significant changes take place, not before.

While OneWeb is excited about the potential synergies which will enhance its ability to provide rural coverage should the transaction with Intelsat occur, the deal remains subject to conditions to closing that have not yet been satisfied. It would be premature for OneWeb to update such ownership information prior to closing the transaction. OneWeb will continue to fully comply with all Section 1.65 obligations in a timely fashion with respect to any future ownership changes that occur.²

¹ IBFS File No. SAT-LOI-20160428-00041 is referred to herein as the Ku/Ka-band Application.

² Indeed, after the closing of a previous investment in OneWeb by SoftBank, OneWeb provided timely updates to the Commission regarding changes to information supplied in its Ku/Ka-band Application. See Letter from Jennifer D. Hindin, Counsel to OneWeb, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, IBFS File No. SAT-LOI-20160428-00041, dated Mar. 2, 2017 (updating the Commission with respect to the ownership and contact information for OneWeb); see also Letter from Brian D. Weimer, Counsel to OneWeb, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, IBFS File No. SAT-LOI-20160428-00041, dated Mar. 20, 2017 (updating the Commission with respect

OneWeb was founded to bridge the digital divide – which includes enabling affordable broadband access for the millions of Americans left off the grid. OneWeb has been making continuous progress towards this goal – in fact, its first production quality satellites will be launched in less than 12 months and, in the following year, Americans in rural areas, including all of Alaska, will have access to affordable broadband Internet services for the first time. All it takes to transform this vision into reality is for the Commission to act upon the Ku/Ka-band Application filed nearly one year ago by OneWeb.

OneWeb was first to design its Ku/Ka-band NGSO system, was first to apply to the Commission for Ku/Ka-band authorization, has achieved extraordinary funding commitments in a very short period of time, and is continuing at full speed to achieve the aforementioned goals.

OneWeb has also been supporting other applicants and leading the industry to help promote the safe use of space while achieving these goals. For instance, OneWeb has agreed with Boeing on maintaining safe distances between satellites and applauds Boeing for its willingness to move the nominal constellation altitude for its system so as to maintain nearly a 125 km distance between our system centers. OneWeb has also been promoting the use of materials that will fully burn up upon reentry so as to keep the public safe from any potential debris, even though these materials are more expensive and require more detailed design and testing.

As Chairman Pai recently noted when discussing the digital divide in this country:

I believe one of our core priorities going forward should be to close that divide – to do what's necessary to help the private sector build networks, send signals, and distribute information to American consumers, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or anything else. We must work to bring the benefits of the digital age to all Americans.³

Together, we can enable affordable broadband Internet access for everyone. OneWeb looks forward to working with the Commission and others on this important goal and encourages the Commission to grant its Ku/Ka-band Application to allow its services to begin in a timely fashion.

to a change in counsel). In short, OneWeb is fully aware of its obligation to keep the Commission apprised of significant changes to information supplied to the agency under Section 1.65.

³ Ajit Pai, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, Remarks to the FCC at 2 (January 24, 2017), *available at* http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2017/db0124/DOC-343184A1.pdf.

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Very truly yours,



Brian D. Weimer
for SHEPPARD, MULLIN, RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP

COUNSEL TO ONEWEB

cc: Tom Sullivan
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