

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of

Intelsat License LLC

Application to Modify Authorization for
Intelsat 9 (S2380)

File No. SAT-MOD- _____

**APPLICATION OF INTELSAT LICENSE LLC TO
MODIFY AUTHORIZATION FOR INTELSAT 9**

Intelsat License LLC (“Intelsat”), pursuant to Section 25.117 of the Federal Communications Commission’s (“Commission” or “FCC”) rules,¹ hereby seeks to modify the authorization for the Intelsat 9 satellite (Call Sign S2380), a C-/Ku-band satellite operating at 50.0° W.L.² Specifically, this modification application seeks authority to further extend the license term of Intelsat 9, including previously granted technical waivers,³ through September 30, 2024, to align with a recently updated estimate of the satellite’s end of service life.

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 25.117.

² See *Policy Branch Information; Actions Taken*, Report No. SAT-01468, File No. SAT-MOD-20200226-00019 (May 22, 2020) (Public Notice) (“Intelsat 9 2020 Modification”).

³ Out of an abundance of caution and to the extent necessary, Intelsat seeks an extension of the previously granted waivers of 47 C.F.R. §§ 25.114(d)(14)(ii) and 25.283(c), which require applicants to demonstrate that all stored energy will be removed at the spacecraft’s end of life for the reasons previously stated. *Application of Intelsat License LLC to Modify Authorization for Intelsat 9 (S2380)*, File No. SAT-MOD-20200226-00019, Narrative at 1, n.3 (filed Feb. 26, 2020) (“Intelsat 9 Modification Application”). In the grant of the 2020 modification grant for Intelsat 9, the Commission found that Rules 25.114(d)(14)(ii) and 25.283(c) “relate to Intelsat 9’s post-mission plans, which have not changed, and therefore, we find it unnecessary to address the request to waive those rules.” See *Intelsat 9 2020 Modification* at n.3. Out of an abundance of caution, Intelsat again seeks an extension of the previously granted waivers of 47 C.F.R. §§ 25.114(d)(14)(ii) and 25.283(c).

In accordance with the requirements of the Commission's rules,⁴ this application has been filed electronically as an attachment to FCC Form 312. Intelsat incorporates by reference all required technical information in the Schedule S previously provided to the FCC for operation at 50.0° W.L.⁵ Consistent with Section 1.62 of the Commission's rules, Intelsat will continue to operate the Intelsat 9 satellite pursuant to the terms and conditions of its expiring license until such time as the Commission makes a determination with respect to this request.⁶

I. REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF LICENSE TERM

Intelsat seeks to further extend the license term for the Intelsat 9 satellite through September 30, 2024. Intelsat 9 is licensed to operate at 50.0° W.L.⁷ and was placed into service on September 6, 2000.⁸ In 2020, the Commission granted Intelsat's request for a fifteen-month license extension,⁹ which was based on Intelsat's then-current estimated end of service life of the satellite.¹⁰ Accordingly, the current license term for Intelsat 9 will expire October 31, 2022,¹¹ almost two years prior to the recently-updated expected end of service life of the satellite.

⁴ 47 C.F.R. § 25.117(c).

⁵ See 47 C.F.R. § 25.114; Intelsat 9 Modification Application, Schedule S.

⁶ 47 C.F.R. § 1.62.

⁷ See Intelsat 9 2020 Modification.

⁸ See Letter from Joseph A. Godles, Counsel to PanAmSat Licensee Corp., to Ms. Magalie R. Salas, FCC, File No. SAT-LOA-19990812-00081 (Jan. 12, 2001) (certifying that the PAS-23 spacecraft had been successfully placed into orbit). The PAS-23 satellite was subsequently renamed Intelsat 9. See Letter from Susan H. Crandall, Intelsat Corporation, to Marlene H. Dortch, FCC, Intelsat North America LLC and PanAmSat Licensee Corp., Notification of New Space Station Names (filed Jan. 8, 2007).

⁹ See Intelsat 9 2020 Modification, Stamp Grant.

¹⁰ See Intelsat 9 Modification Application, Narrative at 5. Intelsat foreshadowed that “[t]o the extent the satellite’s projected end of service life is extended in the future, Intelsat will seek an additional extension of the license term.”

¹¹ See Intelsat 9 2020 Modification, Stamp Grant.

Intelsat recently performed a recalculation of the estimated propellant remaining in the satellite. Based on this recalculation, Intelsat has revised the estimated end of the service life to be September 30, 2024. Accordingly, Intelsat requests that the Commission extend the license term through September 30, 2024.¹²

II. POST-MISSION DISPOSAL PLAN

At the end of the mission, Intelsat will dispose of Intelsat 9 by moving it to an altitude of at least 150 kilometers above the geostationary arc and has reserved 12.8 kilograms of propellant for that purpose.¹³ The Intelsat 9 satellite's subsystems and solar panels are functioning normally, and there are no single points of failure on the satellite that would affect the ability to de-orbit the satellite. Additionally, the satellite's Telemetry, Tracking, and Command functions are operating normally, and the payload is operational.¹⁴

III. PUBLIC INTEREST SHOWING

Grant of this modification application to extend the Intelsat 9 license term serves the public interest. Extending the license term will allow Intelsat to maximize the use of Intelsat 9, which has almost two years of useful life remaining beyond the current license term's expiration

¹² In the unlikely event the satellite's projected end of service life is further extended in the future, Intelsat will seek an additional extension of the license term.

¹³ Satellites launched prior to March 18, 2002, such as the Intelsat 9 satellite, have been designated by the Commission as grandfathered satellites not subject to a specific disposal altitude. Mitigation of Orbital Debris, Second Report and Order, 19 FCC Rcd 11567, ¶ 81 (2004).

¹⁴ As previously disclosed, the Xenon Ion propulsion system on Intelsat 9 is non-operational. Intelsat uses liquid propulsion for all East-West station-keeping of Intelsat 9.

date. Doing so will promote the continued efficient use of orbital resources and is consistent with prior decisions by the Commission to extend satellite license terms.¹⁵

IV. **CONCLUSION**

For the reasons set forth above, Intelsat respectfully requests that the Commission grant this license extension.

Respectfully submitted,

Intelsat License LLC

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October 20, 2022

¹⁵ See, e.g., *Satellite Policy Branch Information; Actions Taken*, Report No. SAT-01538, File No. SAT-MOD-20201222-00150 (Mar. 19, 2021) (Public Notice) (extending the Intelsat 5 satellite's license term for an additional five years).

Exhibit A

FCC Form 312, Response to Question 34: Foreign Ownership

The Commission previously approved Intelsat's ownership structure, including foreign ownership.¹ There have been no material changes to Intelsat's ownership since the *2022 Intelsat Order*.

¹ See *Intelsat S.A., as debtor-in-possession (Transferor) and New TopCo S.A. (Transferee)*, Order, IBFS File No. SAT-ASG-20210826-00117, IB Docket No. 21-375, DA-22-162 (rel. Feb. 16, 2022) ("*2022 Intelsat Order*").

Exhibit B
FCC Form 312, Response to Question 40:
Officers, Directors, and Ten Percent or Greater Shareholders

Intelsat License LLC is a Delaware limited liability company. The officers and directors/managers of Intelsat License LLC are as follows:

Officers:

José Toscano, Deputy Chairman
Michelle Bryan, General Counsel, Chief
Administrative Officer, and Secretary
Mirjana Hervy, Director, Finance

Board of Managers:

José Toscano
Michelle Bryan

The business address of all Intelsat License LLC officers and members of the Board of Managers is: 7900 Tysons One Place, McLean, Virginia 22102.

Intelsat License LLC is a Delaware limited liability company that is indirectly wholly owned by Intelsat S.A. (formerly named Intelsat Emergence S.A.). Specifically, Intelsat License LLC is wholly owned by Intelsat License Holdings LLC, a Delaware limited liability company. Intelsat License Holdings LLC is wholly owned by Intelsat Ventures S.à r.l., a Luxembourg company, which is in turn wholly owned by Intelsat Alliance LP, a Delaware limited partnership. Intelsat Alliance LP is managed by one general partner (Intelsat Genesis GP LLC, a Delaware limited liability company) and two limited partners (Intelsat Genesis Inc., a Delaware corporation, and Intelsat Jackson Holdings S.A., a Luxembourg company). Intelsat Genesis GP LLC is wholly owned by Intelsat Genesis Inc., which is wholly owned by Intelsat Jackson Holdings S.A. Intelsat Jackson Holdings S.A. is wholly owned by Intelsat Connect Finance S.à r.l., a Luxembourg company, which in turn is wholly owned by Intelsat Envision Holdings LLC, a Delaware limited liability company. Intelsat Envision Holdings LLC is wholly owned by Intelsat (Luxembourg) S.à r.l., a Luxembourg company. Intelsat (Luxembourg) S.à r.l. is wholly owned by Intelsat Investments S.à r.l., a Luxembourg company, which in turn is wholly owned by Intelsat Holdings S.à r.l., a Luxembourg company. Intelsat Holdings S.à r.l. is wholly owned by Intelsat S.A., a Luxembourg company. Each of these entities may be contacted at the following address: 4, rue Albert Borschette, L-1246 Luxembourg.

Pacific Investment Management Company LLC (“PIMCO”), a Delaware limited liability company, serves as the manager or investment advisor for a number of investment funds and other investment vehicles that each hold less than 10% of the voting and non-voting equity interests in Intelsat S.A. However, to the best of Intelsat’s knowledge, as of August 23, 2022, the aggregate total of the voting and non-voting equity interests in Intelsat S.A. held by PIMCO-managed funds and certain parent entities of PIMCO exceeded 10%. Details regarding PIMCO are listed below.

PIMCO

Name: Pacific Investment Management Company LLC
Address: 650 Newport Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA
92660
Citizenship: United States (Delaware)
Indirect Voting Interest: Approximately 32.99%
Indirect Non-Voting Interest: Approximately 32.99%

A complete list of the investment funds and entities collectively controlling a 10% or greater indirect voting and indirect non-voting interest in Intelsat S.A. is set forth in Intelsat's 2022 application for consent to the assignment and transfer of control of authorizations.²

² See Application for Assignment and Transfer of Control of Authorizations held by Intelsat License LLC, as debtor-in-possession, IBFS File No. SAT-ASG-20210826-00117 (filed Aug. 26, 2021).