

May 20, 2022

VIA IBFS

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: WorldVu Satellites Limited
File No. SAT-LOI-20160428-00041; Call Sign S2963
Request for Informative Public Notice**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

WorldVu Satellites Limited (“OneWeb”), by its undersigned counsel, hereby notifies the Commission that, as demonstrated in the attached certification, OneWeb has satisfied the applicable milestone requirements in Section 25.164(b) of the Commission’s rules for its Ku/Ka-band, non-geostationary satellite orbit system.¹ Accordingly, OneWeb respectfully requests release of the surety bond currently on file with the Commission pursuant to Section 25.165(d) by issuing an Informative Public Notice confirming that OneWeb has met the milestones requirements by or before May 27, 2022.²

Section 25.164(b) requires NGSO operators to “launch 50 percent of the maximum number of space stations authorized for service, place them in their assigned orbits, and operate them in accordance with the station authorization.”³ To date, OneWeb has launched more than 50 percent of its authorized constellation, placed these satellites in NGSO, and is operating them in accordance with the Market Access Grant. At this time, some of the satellites are still completing orbital raising after successful launch and check out at their injection altitude. These satellites are expected to reach their operational altitude of 1,200 km over the next few weeks. Consistent with precedent, OneWeb has satisfied the milestone requirements for the release of its bond based on

¹ See 47 C.F.R. § 25.164(b); WorldVu Satellites Limited, *Petition for a Declaratory Ruling Granting Access to the U.S. Market for the OneWeb NGSO FSS System*, Order and Declaratory Ruling, 32 FCC Rcd 5366, 5379 ¶ 28 (2017) (“Market Access Grant”).

² 47 C.F.R. § 25.165(d).

³ *Id.* at § 25.164(b).

its certification that the satellites have been launched, were placed in NGSO, and are operating consistent with OneWeb's market access grant.⁴

Additionally, OneWeb's pending Modification Application should not have any bearing on the instant bond certification.⁵ The surety bond is meant to ensure OneWeb deploys the 720-satellite system and utilized the associated Ku/Ka-band frequencies contemplated by the OneWeb Market Access Grant.⁶ By this letter, OneWeb certifies to the satisfaction of these milestones. Even when the Modification Application is granted, the Phase 1 system—which would decrease the number of satellites in its Phase 1 constellation from 720 to 716—will continue to uphold the certifications relieving the surety bond. To the extent the Commission determines a new surety bond is required in connection with OneWeb's Phase 2 constellation, OneWeb will post a new bond consistent with the Commission's rules and any grant of the Modification Application.

Thus, OneWeb respectfully requests the Commission promptly release the OneWeb surety bond pursuant to Section 25.165(d) by issuing an Informative Public Notice confirming that OneWeb has met the milestones requirements by or before May 27, 2022, reserving sufficient time for OneWeb to revert back to its surety and underwriter. Alternatively, OneWeb requests that the Commission stay the requirements for OneWeb to increase the penal sum of the bond for an additional 60 days while the deployed satellites complete their orbit raising phase and the Commission processes OneWeb's milestone showing.

Please direct any questions concerning this filing to the undersigned.

⁴ See, e.g., Letter from Joseph A. Godles, Attorney for O3b Limited, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, File Nos. SAT-LOI-20141029-00118 and SAT-AMD-20150115-00004 (Jan. 27, 2015). OneWeb is unaware of formal Commission guidance adopting a definition of "assigned orbits" for NGSO satellites, given that the spacecraft are not assigned "slots" in the same manner as geostationary satellites.

⁵ See *Modification Application of WorldVu Satellites Limited*, File No. SAT-MPL-20200526-00062 (filed May 26, 2020) as amended by *Amendment to Modification Application for U.S. Market Access Grant for the OneWeb Ku- and Ka-Band System*, File No. SAT-APL-20210112-00007 (filed Jan. 12, 2021) ("Modification Application").

⁶ See Market Access Grant, ¶ 28.



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Very truly yours,

/s/ Brian D. Weimer

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

Attachment

cc: Karl Kensinger
Merissa Velez
Carolyn Tatum Roddy

CERTIFICATION

1. I am the Market Access Manager, North America of WorldVu Satellites Limited (“OneWeb”), which is the holder of a Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) grant of market access for the OneWeb Ku/Ka-band satellite system (Call Sign S2693) (“Market Access Grant”). The Commission’s rules and the Market Access Grant require that OneWeb post a surety bond within 30 days of a grant of market access, that must be escalated annually, until certain milestones are met or the grant is surrendered. OneWeb posted this bond on July 18, 2017 and has escalated it annually in accordance with the Commission’s rules.
2. Between February 2019 and February 2022, OneWeb launched 428 satellites. As of May 2022, over 50% of the 720 satellites authorized in OneWeb’s Market Access Grant have been successfully placed in non-geostationary orbit, and are operating in accordance with the Market Access Grant.
3. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ Blake Wiles

Blake Wiles

Market Access Manager, North America
WorldVu Satellites Limited

May 20, 2022