

October 6, 2017

BY ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Space Norway AS, IBFS File No. SAT-PDR-20161115-00111*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This is to inform you that, on October 5, 2017, Patricia Cooper and undersigned counsel on behalf of Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (“SpaceX”) spoke by telephone with Jose Albuquerque of the Commission’s International Bureau to discuss the above referenced application by Space Norway AS (“Space Norway”) for authority to access the U.S. market using proposed non-geostationary satellite orbit (“NGSO”) Fixed-Satellite Service (“FSS”) systems.

SpaceX voiced appreciation for the Commission’s recently-adopted updates to the NGSO rules, which will lend both flexibility and certainty to the sector. SpaceX also commended the Commission for moving forward so diligently in processing NGSO applications. Draft orders are currently on circulation for U.S. market access applications by two non-U.S. systems, Space Norway and Telesat Canada, and similar action on requests from U.S. license applicants can be expected in the near future. The Commission’s continued efforts to advance NGSO systems will help to unleash a new generation of advanced satellite broadband services, for the benefit of all Americans throughout the country.

SpaceX next reiterated its opposition to any special protection for the particular highly-elliptical orbit (“HEO”) NGSO system Space Norway has proposed. No commenter has supported Space Norway’s request for a unique set of rules that would favor its HEO operations over those of other NGSO operators. The Commission should make clear that Space Norway, like all other NGSO applicants in this processing round, will be expected to coordinate with other NGSO systems in good faith and, if such coordination is unsuccessful, revert to the default in-line events sharing mechanism.¹

SpaceX also reiterated its concerns about the very large beams and high-power transmissions used by the Space Norway NGSO system. These technical characteristics and Space Norway’s limited ability to mitigate its broad-based interference to other NGSO systems

¹ See *Updates to Parts 2 and 25 Concerning Non-Geostationary, Fixed-Satellite Systems and Related Matters*, FCC 17-122, ¶¶ 48-49 (rel. Sep. 27, 2017). The Commission has stated that applicants pending in the current NGSO processing round will be subject to the newly-adopted rules. *Id.* ¶ 71.

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offset the Commission's stated intent that spectrum sharing be achieved through operator-to-operator coordinations. Indeed, the technology choices Space Norway has made practically ensure that band splitting will be required everywhere that its large beams operate, since it has no operational flexibility and its large beams may essentially nullify the flexibility of other NGSO systems. Given the virtual certainty that Space Norway's system will require band splitting with NGSOs within its area of operation, SpaceX encouraged the Commission to waive the requirement that Space Norway serve the entire U.S., as enforcement of that rule in these circumstances would in effect mandate a broader geographic coverage than intended and expand the area where more efficient spectrum sharing approaches can be applied.

Respectfully submitted,



William M. Wiltshire
Counsel to SpaceX

cc: Jose Albuquerque