

May 29, 1996

6560 Rock Spring Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
Telephone 301 214 3473
Fax 301 214 7145
Telex 197800

131-SAT-STA-96

Mr. William F. Caton, Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

ATTN: Thomas S. Tycz, Chief
Satellite and Radiocommunications Division

RE: Request for Special Temporary Authority to
Interconnect with Commercial Internet Service
Provider(s) to Offer Commercial Internet
Services to COMSAT's Maritime, Land Mobile, and
Aeronautical Customers.

Dear Mr. Caton:

COMSAT Corporation, through its COMSAT Mobile Communications business unit ("COMSAT"), hereby requests a grant of special temporary authority ("STA"), pursuant to Sections 214 and 309 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to interconnect its Inmarsat satellite communications facilities with the facilities of commercial Internet service providers commencing on June 10, 1996, to allow its maritime, land mobile, and aeronautical customers to access and exchange information without restriction over the global Internet computer network using the Inmarsat system and COMSAT's land earth stations ("LES"). On April 30, 1996, COMSAT filed an application with the Commission requesting Section 214 authority to interconnect its Inmarsat facilities with the facilities of commercial Internet servers to allow its customers to access the Internet network. That Section 214 application is pending before the Commission.¹ Special temporary authority is requested herein in order to meet COMSAT's

¹ See I-T-C-96-278.

Received

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Satellite and
Radiocommunications Division
International Bureau

customers' demand for immediate access to the global Internet computer network through various commercial Internet service providers.

In 1993, COMSAT applied for and received authority from the Commission to provide Internet services for the exchange of information between ship earth stations and the Internet computer network through interconnection with the Internet facilities of the National Aeronautical and Space Administration ("NASA").² This authority is limited by the requirement that COMSAT's customers conform their usage with the National Science Foundation's "Acceptable User Policy," which restricts access to Internet to research, education and non-commercial purposes. A grant of the instant request will allow COMSAT to provide unrestricted access to the vast resources of information available through commercial Internet service providers to all of its maritime, land mobile, and aeronautical users on an expedited basis.

As indicated in the NASA interconnection Order, no comments were filed in response to COMSAT's 1993 NASA interconnection application.³ Nor do we anticipate that anyone will oppose COMSAT's pending application to interconnect its Inmarsat facilities with commercial Internet service providers. Accordingly, it is unlikely that any party will be prejudiced by grant of the instant STA request.

The proposed interconnection will allow COMSAT's maritime, land mobile, and aeronautical users to both receive and transmit information over the global Internet computer network using COMSAT's Inmarsat facilities, its LES, and a variety of commercial Internet service providers. Users in the mobile environment who are unable to access the Internet computer network from fixed locations will greatly benefit from the grant of this request by being able to conduct business transactions and exchange information over the Internet network through their Inmarsat mobile terminals. As stated in COMSAT's pending Section 214 application, in order to provide a commercial Internet service to its customers in the most economical and efficient manner, COMSAT will lease two 56kbs circuits at \$1800 per month and procure hardware and software to establish two COMSAT Internet servers: one to be located initially at Clarksburg, Maryland, and then moved to Southbury, Connecticut, and the second to be located at Santa Paula, California. The cost to

² See COMSAT Corporation, 8 FCC Rcd 8767 (1993).

³ See id.

procure, configure, and program the equipment is estimated at \$120,000. In response to customer demand, COMSAT is prepared to expedite these arrangements so that its commercial Internet service will be available to customers commencing on June 10, 1996.

Accordingly, COMSAT respectfully submits that the public interest would be served by expediting the interconnection of COMSAT's Inmarsat facilities with the facilities of commercial Internet service providers and, thus, by a grant of instant request for special temporary authority commencing on June 10, 1996.

Respectfully submitted,

COMSAT CORPORATION
COMSAT Mobile Communications

By: Nancy J. Thompson
Nancy J. Thompson
COMSAT International Communications
6560 Rock Spring Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817
(301) 214-3473

Its Attorney

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
FCC REMITTANCE ADVICE

Approved by O:
 3060-0589
 Expires 2/28/96

PAGE NO. 1 OF 1

(RESERVED)

SPECIAL USE

FCC USE ONLY

(Read instructions carefully BEFORE proceeding.)

PAYOR INFORMATION

(1) FCC ACCOUNT NUMBER	Did you have a number prior to this? Enter it.	(2) TOTAL AMOUNT PAID (dollars and cents)
0 5 2 0 7 8 1 8 6 3		\$ 705 . 00

(3) PAYOR NAME (If paying by credit card, enter name exactly as it appears on your card)

COMSAT MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS

(4) STREET ADDRESS LINE NO. 1
 6560 Rock Spring Drive

(5) STREET ADDRESS LINE NO. 2

(6) CITY
 Bethesda

Radiocommunications Division
 International Bureau

(7) STATE
 MD

(8) ZIP CODE
 20817

(9) DAYTIME TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include area code)
 301-214-3571

(10) COUNTRY CODE (if not U.S.A.)

ITEM #1 INFORMATION

(11A) NAME OF APPLICANT, LICENSEE, REGULATEE, OR DEBTOR

FCC USE ONLY

COMSAT MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS

(12A) FCC CALL SIGN/OTHER ID	(13A) ZIP CODE	(14A) PAYMENT TYPE CODE	(15A) QUANTITY	(16A) FEE DUE FOR PAYMENT TYPE CODE IN BLOCK 14
	20817	C U T	1	\$ 705.00

(17A) FCC CODE 1

(18A) FCC CODE 2

(19A) ADDRESS LINE NO. 1

6560 Rock Spring Drive

(20A) ADDRESS LINE NO. 2

(21A) CITY/STATE OR COUNTRY CODE

Bethesda, MD

ITEM #2 INFORMATION

(11B) NAME OF APPLICANT, LICENSEE, REGULATEE, OR DEBTOR

FCC USE ONLY

(12B) FCC CALL SIGN/OTHER ID	(13B) ZIP CODE	(14B) PAYMENT TYPE CODE	(15B) QUANTITY	(16B) FEE DUE FOR PAYMENT TYPE CODE IN BLOCK 14
				\$

(17B) FCC CODE 1

(18B) FCC CODE 2

(19B) ADDRESS LINE NO. 1

(20B) ADDRESS LINE NO. 2

(21B) CITY/STATE OR COUNTRY CODE

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT INFORMATION

(22) MASTERCARD/VISA ACCOUNT NUMBER:

☐ Mastercard

EXPIRATION DATE:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
MELLON BANK APPLICATION RETURN FORM

Date: 6/3/96

Data Preparation Center
Mellon Bank
Room 153-2718
Pittsburgh, PA 1559-001

Re: ComSat Mobile Comm.

The enclosed application(s) can be processed as filed. Please refer to the following instructions:

- ☐ Use original date stamped, and stamp all receipt copies with the same date.
- ☒ Restamp application(s) and all other documents.
- ☐ Application was sent to the wrong location, and is being forwarded for processing.
- ☒ Process application(s) in Lockbox 358115.
- ☒ Process filing using Payment Type Code CUT.
- ☐ Process as overpayment.

Please contact the Billings & Collections Branch at (202) 418-1995, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Octavia P. Russell
Regina W. Dorsey, Chief
Billings & Collections Branch

ck. # 1133
\$ 705.00