

Approved by OMB
3060-0678



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SAT-STA-20040128-00007
With Attached Conditions
Call Sign GSTAR Y 1/29/2004
(or other identifier)
From 1/29/2004 To 2/29/2004

Date & Time Filed: Jan 28 2004 3:38:12:210PM

File Number: SAT-STA-20040128-00007
Callsign:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
APPLICATION FOR SPACE STATION SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Robert G. Nelson
Chief Satellite Engineering Branch

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Enter a description of this application to identify it on the main menu:

GSTAR 4 STA Request to continue operation during deorbit

1. Applicant

Name:	SES Americom, Inc.	Phone Number:	609-987-4000
DBA Name:		Fax Number:	609-987-4233
Street:	Four Research Way	E-Mail:	Scott.Tollefsen@ses-amicom.c
City:	Princeton	State:	NJ
Country:	USA	Zipcode:	08540 -6684
Attention:	Scott B. Tollefsen		

2. Contact

Name:	Karis A. Hastings	Phone Number:	202-637-5767
Company:	Hogan & Hartson L.L.P.	Fax Number:	202-637-5910
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City:	Washington	State:	DC
Country:	USA	Zipcode:	20004 -1109
Contact Title:		Relationship:	Legal Counsel

(If your application is related to an application filed with the Commission, enter the file number below.)

3. Reference File Number

4a. Is a fee submitted with this application?

If Yes, complete and attach FCC Form 159.

If No, indicate reason for fee exemption (see 47 C.F.R. Section 1.1114).

Governmental Entity Noncommercial educational licensee

Other (please explain):

4b. Fee Classification CRY - Space Station (Geostationary)

5. Type Request

Change Station Location Extend Expiration Date Other

6. Temporary Orbit Location 7. Requested Extended Expiration Date

8. Description See Attachment 1

9. By checking Yes, the undersigned certifies that neither applicant nor any other party to the application is subject to a denial of Federal benefits that includes FCC benefits pursuant to Section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Act of

Attachment

Conditions of Authorization – SAT-STA-20040128-00007

1. SES Americom, Inc.'s application, SAT-STA-20040128-00007, IS GRANTED and SES Americom, Inc. is authorized to continue operating the tracking, telemetry and command ("TT&C") systems on its GSTAR 4 satellite, callsign GSTAR 4, for a period of 30 days to perform end of life maneuvers boosting the satellite to a disposal orbit above the geostationary arc, in accordance with the terms, conditions, and technical specifications set forth in its application and this Attachment; and
2. SES Americom, INC. shall coordinate all orbit raising maneuver TT&C operations with existing geostationary satellites to ensure that no unacceptable interference results from its TT&C operations during its disposal operations; and
3. During the disposal operations no harmful interference shall be caused by GSTAR 4 to any other lawfully operating in-orbit satellite, and operations of the GSTAR 4 satellite shall cease immediately upon notification of such interference; and
4. SES Americom is required to accept interference from other lawfully operating in-orbit satellites; and
5. Any action taken or expense incurred as a result of operations pursuant to this special temporary authority is solely at SES Americom's own risk; and
6. Within thirty days of completion of the end of life maneuvers, SES AMERICOM shall provide the Commission in writing with the apogee and perigee of GSTAR 4's disposal orbit.
7. SES Americom, Inc. is afforded thirty days from the date of release of this grant and authorization to decline this authorization as conditioned. Failure to respond within this period will constitute formal acceptance of the authorization as conditioned.
8. This Grant is issued pursuant to Section 0.261 of the Commission's rules on delegated authority, 47 C.F.R. § 0.261, and is effective upon release. Petitions for reconsideration under Section 1.106 or applications for review under Section 1.115 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.106, 1.115, may be filed within 30 days of the date of the public notice indicating that this action was taken.

1988, 21 U.S.C. Section 862, because of a conviction for possession or distribution of a controlled substance. See Yes No
 47 CFR 1.2002(b) for the meaning of "party to the application" for these purposes.

10. Name of Person Signing
 Scott B. Tollefsen

11. Title of Person Signing
 Vice President & Associate General Counsel

12. Please supply any need attachments.

Attachment 1: Att. 1

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

**WILLFUL FALSE STATEMENTS MADE ON THIS FORM ARE PUNISHABLE BY FINE AND / OR IMPRISONMENT
 (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001), AND/OR REVOCATION OF ANY STATION AUTHORIZATION
 (U.S. Code, Title 47, Section 312(a)(1)), AND/OR FORFEITURE (U.S. Code, Title 47, Section 503).**

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**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of Application by)
SES AMERICOM, INC.) File No. SAT-STA-_____
For Special Temporary Authority)
To Continue to Operate the TT&C Systems)
Of GSTAR 4 During Deorbit Maneuvers)

Expedited Action Requested

APPLICATION OF SES AMERICOM, INC.

SES AMERICOM, Inc. ("SES AMERICOM") hereby respectfully requests special temporary authority pursuant to Section 25.120 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 25.120, to continue operating the tracking, telemetry, and command ("TT&C") systems on GSTAR 4 for a period of up to 30 days during end of life maneuvers boosting the satellite to a disposal orbit above the geostationary arc. SES AMERICOM requests expedited action on the instant request to permit deorbiting to begin as soon as possible. Grant of the requested authority will serve the public interest by permitting SES AMERICOM to perform end of life maneuvers that will maximize the distance between GSTAR 4 and satellites operating in the geostationary arc.

GSTAR 4 is a Ku-band only satellite that commenced operations at 105° W.L. on December 19, 1990. This Ku-band capacity will be replaced by the Ku-band payload of the AMC-15 Ku/Ka-band hybrid spacecraft, which is currently scheduled to commence operations at 105° W.L. in the 3rd quarter of 2004.¹ Pending launch of AMC-15, the Commission authorized SES AMERICOM to provide Ku-

¹ See File No. SAT-LOA-20030219-00013.

band services over AMC-2 at 105° W.L.,² and SES AMERICOM subsequently relocated AMC-2 to that location. Because maintaining GSTAR 4 at 105° W.L. was adversely affecting operations at that location, SES AMERICOM requested and received special temporary authority to commence the relocation of GSTAR 4 out of the 105° W.L. location.³ SES AMERICOM has been drifting GSTAR 4 toward 165° W.L. The spacecraft is currently at 140.68° W.L. and is drifting 0.3° per day.

SES AMERICOM proposes to commence deorbit maneuvers as soon as possible. The estimated propellant currently remaining in the GSTAR 4 tanks is approximately 5.4 kg fuel. SES AMERICOM proposes to burn as much of this fuel as possible, thereby maximizing the satellite's disposal altitude above the geostationary arc. SES AMERICOM plans to perform two initial maneuvers to raise the spacecraft to an apogee of approximately 155 km and a perigee of approximately 155 km above the geostationary arc. Subsequent maneuvers will raise the deorbit altitude further and deplete remaining fuel. Once SES AMERICOM verifies the precise new orbit parameters, the end of life maneuvers will be complete, all systems, including the battery recharging system, will be turned off, and all transmissions to and from the satellite will cease.

Expedited action on this request is necessary to permit SES AMERICOM to maximize the disposal orbit's separation from the geostationary arc and to permit orderly end of life maneuvers. Specifically, SES AMERICOM seeks authority to commence deorbit maneuvers on January 29. Immediate commencement of deorbit maneuvers is necessary to permit adequate staffing of the operation, given the resources required for the scheduled launch of SES

² SES AMERICOM, Inc., *Order and Authorization*, DA 03-2197 (Sat. Div., Int'l Bur. rel. July 7, 2003).

³ See File No. SAT-STA-20030930-00306, granted Oct. 7, 2003; File No. SAT-STA-20031209-00349. SES AMERICOM also requested authority to operate GSTAR 4 temporarily at the 165° W.L. orbital location. See File No. SAT-STA-20031001-00307. In light of the decision to deorbit the spacecraft, SES AMERICOM hereby withdraws that application.

AMERICOM's AMC-10 spacecraft next week. In addition, during the past week, SES AMERICOM has been required to fire GSTAR 4's thrusters to correct for attitude problems. Continuing to maintain the spacecraft's attitude will deplete fuel resources that otherwise would be available for boosting the disposal orbit.

For the foregoing reasons, SES AMERICOM seeks temporary authority commencing immediately for a period of up to thirty days to operate the TT&C systems of GSTAR 4 during deorbit maneuvers. SES AMERICOM hereby certifies that no party to this application is subject to a denial of federal benefits pursuant to Section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, 21 U.S.C. § 862.

Respectfully submitted,

SES AMERICOM, INC.

By: /s/ Scott B. Tollefsen

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Dated: January 28, 2004