

January 7, 2011

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



Re: Request for Special Temporary Authority for Galaxy 15, Call Sign S2387

Dear Ms. Dortch:

PanAmSat Licensee Corp. ("PanAmSat") herein requests Special Temporary Authority ("STA")¹ for 14 days, from January 15, 2011 through January 28, 2011, to operate the communications payload on Galaxy 15 at 93.0° W.L. for purposes of testing to determine the functionality of every aspect of the satellite.

As the Commission is aware, on April 5, 2010, the Galaxy 15 satellite suffered an anomaly of unknown origin. Due to this anomaly, the satellite drifted outside of its authorized +/- 0.05° East/West station-keeping box pursuant to STA.²

¹ PanAmSat has filed this STA request, an FCC Form 159 and an \$830.00 filing fee electronically via the International Bureau's Filing System.

² See *Intelsat North America LLC Request for Further Extension of Temporary Authority*, File No. SAT-STA-20101228-00268 (stamp grant issued by Stephen J. Duall, with conditions, on Jan. 7, 2011); *Policy Branch Information; Actions Taken*, Report No. SAT-00741, File No. SAT-STA-20101129-00248 (Dec. 3, 2010) (Public Notice); *Policy Branch Information; Actions Taken*, Report No. SAT-00735, File No. SAT-STA-20101029-00227 (Nov. 5, 2010) (Public Notice); *Actions Taken*, Report No. SAT-00727, File No. SAT-STA-20100929-00203 (Oct. 8, 2010); *Actions Taken*, Report No. SAT-00720, File No. SAT-STA-20100830-00185 (Sep. 10, 2010) (Public Notices); See *Policy Branch Information; Actions Taken*, Report No. SAT-00715, File No. SAT-STA-20100803-00172 (Aug. 13, 2010) (Public Notice); *Policy Branch Information; Actions Taken*, Report No. SAT-00706, File No. SAT-STA-20100628-00149 (Jul 9, 2010) (Public Notice); *Policy Branch Information; Actions Taken*, Report No. SAT-00698, File No. SAT-STA-20100601-00118 (Jun. 11, 2010) (Public Notice); *Policy Branch Information; Actions Taken*, Report No. SAT-00687, File No. SAT-STA-20100430-00087 (May 7, 2010); *Policy Branch Information; Actions Taken*, Report No. SAT-00682, File No. SAT-STA-20100409-00071 (Apr. 16, 2010) (Public Notice).

On December 23, 2010, Galaxy 15 lost Earth lock, all power drained from its battery, and the command unit reset, as it was designed to do.³ Shortly thereafter, Galaxy 15 began accepting commands and PanAmSat began receiving telemetry from the satellite. The satellite initially was placed in Sun acquisition mode for diagnostic testing. On December 27, 2010, after the spacecraft's batteries were fully charged and the satellite was thermally balanced, Galaxy 15 was placed in Earth acquisition mode.

Currently, Galaxy 15 is drifting to 93.0° W.L., where it will be collocated with Galaxy 25, which is operated at 93.10° W.L. by PanAmSat's sister company, Intelsat North America LLC.⁴ PanAmSat expects to have Galaxy 15 on-station at 93.0° W.L. on or about January 15, 2011,⁵ where it plans immediately to begin in-orbit testing the satellite's communications payload as requested herein.

The specific communications frequencies that will be utilized at 93.0° W.L. are as follows:

3700-4200 MHz (space-to-Earth)
5952-6425 MHz (Earth-to-space)

Intelsat will coordinate the planned in-orbit testing of Galaxy 15 with all operators of satellites operating co-frequency up to six degrees away from 93.0° W.L. Specifically, Intelsat will coordinate the proposed testing with StarOne, which operates Brazilsat B2 at 92.0° W.L.; Inmarsat, which operates Inmarsat 4F3 at 98.1° W.L.; and SES AMERICOM, Inc., which operates AMC-3 at 87.0° W.L. In addition, Intelsat has internally coordinated the proposed testing with the following of its satellites: Galaxy 25 (call sign S2154) at 93.10° W.L., Galaxy 3C (call sign S2381) at 95.05° W.L., Galaxy 19 (call sign S2647) at 97.0° W.L., Galaxy 16 (call sign S2687) at 99.0° W.L., Galaxy 17 (call sign S2715) at 91.0° W.L., and Galaxy 28 (call sign S2160) at 89.0° W.L. In the unlikely event that harmful interference occurs, Intelsat will take all necessary steps to eliminate the interference.

³ The satellite's communications payload had earlier shut off as a result of power loss.

⁴ See *Intelsat North America LLC Request for Further Extension of Temporary Authority*, File No. SAT-STA-20101228-00268 (filed Dec. 28, 2010). The STA further extension request includes authority to operate the satellite's TT&C frequencies on-station at 93.0° W.L.

⁵ Once the satellite is on-station, PanAmSat will perform station-keeping maneuvers to reduce its inclination and place it in the required +/- .05 station-keeping box.

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Grant of this STA request will allow Intelsat to assess the health of Galaxy 15 following the loss and subsequent recovery of ability to command the satellite. Assuming a successful outcome to the testing, this will in turn help Intelsat return the satellite to commercial operation at either 129° W.L or 133° W.L., thereby serving the public interest.

For the reasons set forth herein, Intelsat respectfully requests that the Commission expeditiously grant this STA request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan H. Crandall', written in a cursive style.

Susan H. Crandall
Assistant General Counsel
Intelsat Corporation

cc: Robert Nelson
Karl Kensinger
Kathryn Medley
Stephen Duall