

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY

Pursuant to Section 25.210 of the Commission's rules, Spaceflight, Inc. ("Spaceflight") hereby respectfully requests an extension of its Special Temporary Authority ("STA") to operate its Sherpa-LTE1 spacecraft. The period of requested extension is for sixty (60) days, beginning on December 26, 2021, and running until February 24, 2022.

Spaceflight was granted an initial one-hundred and eighty (180) day STA¹ beginning on June 30, 2021² to permit it to deploy and operate two (2) spacecraft, Sherpa-FX2 and Sherpa-LTE1 launching on a SpaceX Falcon 9. As outlined in its initial application, following its deployment of a customer spacecraft, the LTE-1 mission included a developmental element intended to demonstrate control and propulsive elements, rapidly deorbit the vehicle, and collect data for future missions.³

The deployment of the customer spacecraft proceeded as planned. The developmental mission has, however, run into a variety of unanticipated technical constraints that delayed the commissioning of necessary systems and limited the amount of data that could be transmitted from the spacecraft to ground stations, which in turn further delayed operations. Even now, there is much data aboard the spacecraft that remains to be downloaded to earth because of the very limited data capabilities of the UHF downlinks that are being employed.

Spaceflight has been able substantially to resolve the issues that existed at the beginning of the program and the avionics and propulsive elements of the LTE1 are now fully operational. Spaceflight has not, however, begun the planned deorbit part of the mission. Given the remaining potential life of the vehicle and operational constraints, Spaceflight does not believe that it would be practical for it to try to lower the vehicle to the planned 350 km altitude.

The additional time that is requested would serve several important functions:

First, now that technical issues have been resolved, with the additional time, it will be possible to lower the vehicle from its current 518 km altitude to between 480-500

¹ Spaceflight, Inc., Application for STA to Deploy and Operate Sherpa FX2 and Sherpa LTE-1, IBFS File No. SAT-STA-20210205-00017 (filed Feb 5, 2021)("Initial STA Application").

² See Letter from Sasha Filed, General Counsel, Spaceflight, Inc. to Marlene Dortch, Secretary, FCC regarding launch and deployment of Sherpa-LTE1 and FX2, filed July 1, 2021.

³ See Initial STA Application, Attachment 1, Exhibit A.

km. While not achieving the full mission objective, this will reduce the decay lifetime of the vehicle once decommissioned.

Second, during this additional period, Spaceflight will be able to respond to conjunction events provided by the 18th Space Control Squadron and use the onboard propulsion system to maneuver as needed to avoid collisions.

Third, Spaceflight will be able better demonstrate control and propulsive elements of the vehicle and to download data to facilitate future missions.

Accordingly, for good cause shown, Spaceflight respectfully asks that its extension request be granted.