

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF
SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY

Pursuant to Section 25.120 of the Commission’s rules, Spaceflight, Inc. (“Spaceflight”) respectfully requests a 180-day extension from February 21, 2023, until August 20, 2023, of its previously granted application for Special Temporary Authority (“STA”), to continue operating its Sherpa-LTE1 spacecraft (“Sherpa-LTE1”) and lower the orbit to its end-of-mission orbit of 350 km.¹ As previously stated, Spaceflight has been executing burns, as operations allow, to lower the orbit of the spacecraft. Sherpa-LTE1 was deployed at an orbital altitude of approximately 522 km,² and its current orbital altitude is approximately 445 km. The only step remaining for the mission is to actively de-orbit the spacecraft.

Spaceflight is in discussions with the relevant National Aeronautics and Space Administration (“NASA”) International Space Station (“ISS”) representatives (specifically, the Trajectory Operations and Planning Officer and Conjunction Assessment Risk Analysis teams) regarding the active de-orbit process through the ISS orbit (~400 km). This process will require ground station resources and personnel that are currently unavailable because of other active missions, including Sherpa-AC1. Grant of the extension request will provide additional time for Spaceflight to complete its discussions with NASA and allocate necessary operational resources to ensure the safe de-orbit of Sherpa-LTE1, which is in the public interest. For these reasons, Spaceflight requests a 180-day extension to operate Sherpa-LTE1 and complete its de-orbit process.

¹ See 47 C.F.R. § 25.120; Spaceflight, Inc., Application for STA, IBFS File No. SAT-STA-20210205-00017 (granted May 28, 2021); Spaceflight, Inc., Request for Extension of STA, IBFS File No. SAT-STA-20211217-00197 (filed Dec. 17, 2021); Spaceflight, Inc., Request for Extension of STA, IBFS File No. SAT-STA-20220218-00019 (granted July 21, 2022); Spaceflight, Inc., Request for Extension of STA, IBFS File No. SAT-STA-20220803-00076 (granted Nov. 3, 2022) (granting Spaceflight’s third STA extension request until February 21, 2023). Spaceflight understands that its operations are of a continuing nature. 47 C.F.R. § 1.62.

² See Letter from Sasha Field, General Counsel, Spaceflight, Inc., to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, IBFS File No. SAT-STA-20210205-00017 (filed July 1, 2021).