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August 19, 2011

By Electronic Filing

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

Re: AMC-2 (Call Sign S2134), File No. SAT-T/C-20110527-00100

Update Pursuant to Section 1.65 and Response to Commission Letter

Dear Ms. Dortch:

SES Americom, Inc. ("SES Americom") and SES ASTRA AB ("ASTRA AB," and with SES Americom, the "Applicants"), by their attorneys and pursuant to Section 1.65 of the Commission's rules, hereby update their above-referenced application to transfer the AMC-2 space station from operations under U.S. licensing authority to operations under Swedish licensing authority at the nominal 5° E.L. orbital location (the "AMC-2 Transfer Application"). In addition, the Applicants respond below to the Commission's letter requesting additional information concerning the AMC-2 Transfer Application. SES Americom and ASTRA AB respectfully request that the Commission incorporate the supplemental information provided here into the record relating to the AMC-2 Transfer Application.

Section 1.65 Update

AMC-2 Orbital Position: The AMC-2 Transfer Application stated that at the nominal 5° E.L. orbital location ASTRA AB would operate AMC-2 pursuant to International Telecommunication Union ("ITU") filings made by the Swedish Administration for the benefit of ASTRA AB. The application went on to explain that ASTRA AB currently operates other satellites under Swedish authority and ITU filings at the nominal 5° E.L. orbital location, including ASTRA 4A and ASTRA 1E. In order to

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 1.65.

See Letter of Robert G. Nelson, Chief, Satellite Division to Karis A. Hastings dated July 19, 2011 (the "AMC-2 Letter").

³ AMC-2 Transfer Application, Narrative at 1-2.

⁴ *Id.* at 2 & n.7.

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avoid stationkeeping overlaps with these satellites, SES Americom and ASTRA AB initially proposed to position AMC-2 at 5.16° E.L.⁵

The Applicants hereby advise the Commission of a change to this deployment plan. Specifically, the Applicants now propose to position AMC-2 at 4.98° E.L., rather than at 5.16° E.L. This change will not result in an overlap of the proposed stationkeeping volume of AMC-2 with the other ASTRA AB satellites at the nominal 5° E.L. location.⁶

<u>Updated officers and directors</u>: Exhibit E of the AMC-2 Transfer Application contained lists of the officers and directors of SES Americom and ASTRA AB, but there have been subsequent changes to both Applicants' management. An updated copy of Exhibit E that reflects the current director and officer information for each of the Applicants is attached hereto.

Response to AMC-2 Letter

Responses to the information requests in the AMC-2 Letter are provided below.

1. A copy of any licensing document to operate the AMC-2 space station using C- and Ku-band frequencies at the 5.16° E.L. orbital location from the Swedish Post and Telecommunications Agency, and an English translation of that authorization, if necessary.

The Swedish Post and Telecommunications Agency ("PTS") has not issued a license for the operations of AMC-2 at the nominal 5° E.L. orbital location, and no such PTS license is required. The Applicants filed with the AMC-2 Transfer Application a letter from the PTS describing the current ITU filings that have been submitted at this nominal location and indicating that the filings were made for the benefit of ASTRA AB.⁷

A supplemental letter from the PTS is attached hereto.⁸ The August PTS Letter makes clear that the PTS is aware that ASTRA AB plans to operate AMC-2 at 4.98° E.L.,⁹ and that "PTS supports the operation of AMC-2 at 4.98°E under Swedish ITU filings" that were submitted on behalf of ASTRA AB.¹⁰

⁵ *Id.* at 2, n.4.

Specifically, ASTRA 1E will be relocated prior to the arrival of AMC-2 to avoid any overlap, and ASTRA 4A will remain positioned at the nominal 4.8° E.L. orbital location.

Letter from Helena Åkerlund, Head of the Fixed Radio and Satellite Unit, Swedish Post and Telecom Agency, to SES ASTRA AB dated May 25, 2011, attached as Annex 1 to the AMC-2 Transfer Application.

Letter from Helena Åkerlund, Head of the Fixed Radio and Satellite Unit, Swedish Post and Telecom Agency, to SES ASTRA AB dated Aug. 15, 2011 (the "August PTS Letter").

⁹ As discussed above, the Applicants now propose to position AMC-2 at 4.98° E.L., rather than 5.16° E.L.

¹⁰ August PTS Letter at 1.

 Please state whether ASTRA AB's operations of AMC-2 at 5.16° E.L. require authority under the Swedish Space Act. If so, please indicate whether such authority has been requested or granted. If it is SES Americom's view that no such authorization is needed, please provide an explanation of that view.

The planned operations of AMC-2 at 4.98° E.L. do not require authority under the Swedish Space Act. The Applicants' view that no authority under the Swedish Space Act is required is based on discussions between ASTRA AB personnel and staff of the Swedish National Board for Space Activities (the "National Board"). During those discussions, the National Board staff have indicated that authority under the Swedish Space Act is required only with respect to a satellite that is being commanded and controlled from Swedish territory. The Applicants do not propose to control AMC-2 from Sweden while it is positioned at 4.98° E.L.

As a point of comparison, ASTRA AB currently operates ASTRA 1E at the nominal 5° E.L. orbital location pursuant to Swedish ITU filings but without a license under the Swedish Space Act because the satellite is not controlled from Sweden. In contrast, ASTRA AB sought and obtained a license under the Swedish Space Act for SES-5 (also known as ASTRA-4B), because that satellite will be controlled from ground station facilities located in Sweden.

3. Points of contact with the Swedish Post and Telecommunications Agency and the National Board for Space Activities.

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PTS Box 5398 SE-102 49 Stockholm Sweden

National Board contact:

Ms. Maria Nilsson Phone: +46 8 627 64 94 Fax: +46 8 627 50 14

e-mail: maria.nilsson@snsb.se

Swedish National Space Board Box 4006 SE-171 04 Solna Sweden

4. The anticipated length of time AMC-2 will operate at the 5.16° E.L. orbital location. In addition, because AMC-2 will operate at 5.16° E.L. until the launch of the SES-5 space station to that location, please provide the status of the construction and launch of SES-5.

The Applicants anticipate that AMC-2 will operate at 4.98° E.L. for approximately four to seven months, depending on a variety of factors. Subject to receipt of the required Commission authority,

SES Americom proposes to commence relocation of AMC-2 in mid-October, and anticipates that the drift from 78.95° W.L. to 4.98° E.L. would take roughly two and a half months, so that the satellite would arrive in January 2012. The Applicants propose to maintain AMC-2 at 4.98° E.L. pending the successful launch of the SES-5 satellite to the nominal 5° E.L. orbital location. The Applicants anticipate that the AMC-2 satellite will be released from its duties at 5° E.L. by May 2012, unless the launch of SES-5 is significantly delayed.

This estimated time frame is based on the current schedule for SES-5. While ASTRA AB remains hopeful that SES-5 can still be launched by the end of 2011 (as planned), the delays experienced to date indicate that the construction of the satellite will more likely be completed by the end of this year, and that launch will more likely take place in March 2012.

 SES Americom states that no customers of AMC-2 at 78.95° W.L. will be adversely affected by this request. Please provide information regarding the specific space station(s) to which AMC-2 customers will be transferred.

Prior to the proposed departure of AMC-2 from 78.95° W.L., the customers currently on AMC-2 will have been transferred to the SES-1 and AMC-3 satellites.

6. Specify SES Americom's actions with respect to its current authorization at 78.95° W.L. in light of the requirements of Section 25.161(c) of the Commission's rules.

SES Americom plans to return AMC-2 to the nominal 79° W.L. orbital location following its period of service at 4.98° E.L. SES Americom therefore requests any necessary authority under Section 25.161(c) to permit AMC-2 to return to the nominal 79° W.L. orbital location after completion of its interim operations at 4.98° E.L. Grant of such authority is in the public interest because the temporary relocation of AMC-2 will allow the initiation of new services and will not result in the interruption of services to any AMC-2 customers. Moreover, AMC-2 will be available to return to 79° W.L. to serve U.S. consumers from that slot well before a new spacecraft could be deployed there.

Section 25.161(c) provides that a license will automatically terminate upon "removal or modification of the facilities which renders the station not operational for more than 90 days, unless specific authority is requested." SES Americom hereby requests such authority to permit AMC-2 to resume operations in the C-band and Ku-band at the nominal 79° W.L. orbital location no later than December 15, 2012. This requested return deadline will allow time for SES-5 to commence service and for AMC-2 to be drifted back to its currently assigned position. The proposed return date would also accommodate modest further delays in the launch of SES-5, and would permit AMC-2 to be away from the nominal 79° W.L. orbital location for a maximum period of 14 months.

Authority under Section 25.161(c) is justified to achieve the public interest benefits identified in the AMC-2 Transfer Application and further described below. These benefits, moreover, will be

At the time the Applicants filed the AMC-2 Transfer Application, they indicated that a decision had not yet been made regarding deployment of AMC-2 following completion of its proposed operations at the nominal 5° E.L. location. See AMC-2 Transfer Application, Narrative at 3 n.8. Subsequently, a determination was made that, subject to the receipt of required Commission authority, the satellite would be returned to the nominal 79° W.L. orbital location following the successful launch of SES-5 to 5° E.L.

¹² 47 C.F.R. § 25.161(c).

achieved without any adverse impact on other users. As discussed above, SES Americom has committed to ensuring that all current customers of AMC-2 at 78.95° W.L. will be transferred to other satellites before relocation of AMC-2 begins.

Under these circumstances, authority under Section 25.161(c) is consistent with Commission precedent and is in the public interest. The Commission has indicated that Section 25.161(c) is intended to prevent unacceptable lapses in service that could result if a satellite is moved out of its assigned orbit location for an extended period. Where these interests are not implicated, the Commission has granted relief under the rule. For example, the International Bureau granted a waiver of Section 25.161(c) to permit relocation of SES Americom's AMC-16 satellite to 118.75° W.L. pending launch and commencement of operations of the Canadian-licensed Anik F3 spacecraft at that location. The Bureau later extended the deadline for AMC-16's return because of further delays in the Anik F3 launch schedule. The Commission found that waiver of Section 25.161(c) was warranted because there would be no interruption in service at the satellite's original location and the relocation was for a limited duration with a definite end date.

The same facts justify relief under Section 25.161(c) here. The Applicants have proposed to return AMC-2 to the nominal 79° W.L. orbital location after a limited period. The relocation of AMC-2 will allow new service to be established at the nominal 5° E.L. orbital location pending launch and commencement of operations of the delayed SES-5 spacecraft. Finally, no customers will be adversely affected. In these circumstances, the public interest will be served by grant of the requested waiver.¹⁷

7. Provide additional information regarding how grant of the transfer will serve the public interest, including any effect the transfer may have on the U.S. Administration's International Telecommunication Union filing for the 79° W.L. orbital location.

Grant of the proposed transfer is consistent with Commission precedent and will serve the public interest by allowing SES Americom to make efficient use of the AMC-2 satellite to initiate new service at the nominal 5° E.L. location notwithstanding the delay in launch of SES-5.

The Commission has repeatedly stated that its policy is to allow "satellite operators to rearrange satellites in their fleet to reflect business and customer considerations where no public interest factors are adversely affected." Pursuant to this policy, the Commission has routinely authorized satellite operators to configure or reconfigure their fleets in order to satisfy customer demand,

¹³ See, e.g., VisionStar Incorporated, 19 FCC Rcd 14820 (IB 2004).

¹⁴ SES Americom, Inc., Order and Authorization, DA 06-757 (IB rel. Apr. 7, 2006) ("AMC-16 Relocation Order").

¹⁵ SES Americom, Inc., Memorandum Opinion and Order, DA 06-2591 (IB rel. Dec. 22, 2006). With the extension, the total authorized period for AMC-16's absence from its assigned orbital location was roughly fifteen months.

¹⁶ AMC-16 Relocation Order at 5, ¶ 9.

¹⁷ See, e.g., PanAmSat Licensee Corp., 17 FCC Rcd 10483, 10492 (Sat. Div. 2002) ("Generally, the Commission may grant a waiver of its rules in a particular case if the relief requested would not undermine the policy objective of the rule in question and would otherwise serve the public interest.") (footnotes omitted).

¹⁸ AMC-16 Relocation Order at 4, ¶ 8, citing Amendment of the Commission's Space Station Licensing Rules and Policies, Second Report and Order, 18 FCC Rcd 12507, 12509, ¶ 7 (2003).

including demand for capacity outside the U.S. For example, the Commission has authorized U.S. licensees to relocate satellites from orbital positions over the U.S. to locations without U.S. coverage in order to respond to existing or potential demand for capacity. Similarly, the Commission has granted U.S. licenses to operators for satellites at locations from which no U.S. coverage is planned or possible.

As the Bureau explained in the AMSC Modification Order.

the Commission attempts, when possible, to leave spacecraft design decisions to the space station licensee because the licensee is in a better position to determine how to tailor its system to meet the particular needs of its customers. Consequently the Commission will generally grant a licensee's request to modify its system, provided there are no compelling countervailing public interest considerations.²¹

The facts here are similar to those before the Commission in support of Intelsat's application to transfer Galaxy 27 for operations at 45.1° E.L. under German licensing authority. Intelsat did not propose to serve the U.S. from the new location, which is not capable of "seeing" the U.S. Instead, Intelsat explained that relocation would "help satisfy high customer demand for capacity over the Middle East" and would allow Intelsat to operate Galaxy 27 "with the coordination benefits associated with Germany's ITU filings for the 45.10° E.L. location." Intelsat noted that no customers would be adversely affected by the proposed move because "they will have been relocated to other satellites prior to Galaxy 27's drift to 45.10° E.L."

As with Galaxy 27, relocation of AMC-2 will allow the Applicants to respond to demand for capacity outside the U.S. Customers at the nominal 5° E.L. orbital location will benefit from the coordination

See, e.g., Intelsat North America LLC, Call Sign S2159, File No. SAT-T/C-20100112-00009 ("Galaxy 27 Relicensing Application") (grant-stamped July 30, 2010) (authorizing Intelsat to relocate Galaxy 27 from 129° W.L. to 45.10° E.L.); PanAmSat Licensee Corp., Call Sign S2253, File No. SAT-MOD-20080225-00051 (grant-stamped July 22, 2008) (authorizing relocation of Galaxy 11 from 91° W.L. to 32.80° E.L. in order to supplement service provided there by Intelsat 802, which had suffered an anomaly that reduced its available power); AMSC Subsidiary Corp., Order and Authorization, DA 98-493, 13 FCC Rcd 12316 (IB 1998) ("AMSC Modification Order") (authorizing AMSC to relocate its satellite away from 101° W.L. in order to provide service to southern Africa).

See, e.g., Afrispace, Inc., Order and Authorization, DA 06-4, 21 FCC Rcd 7 (IB 2006) (authorizing launch and operation of AfriStar-2 satellite for service to Africa and Europe from 21° E.L.); Assignment of Orbital Locations to Space Stations in the Ka-Band, Order, DA 96-708 (IB 1996) (assigning 33 orbital locations between 62° W.L. and 175.25° E.L. to 13 Ka-band applicants, finding that the public interest would be served by authorizing international operations pending the development of policies for Ka-band satellite service within the U.S.).

AMSC Modification Order, 13 FCC Rcd at 12318, ¶ 8 (footnote omitted). Although the relocation authorized in this case was never implemented, the Commission has repeatedly reaffirmed its policy of allowing licensees to change their fleet configurations to accommodate customer requirements. See, e.g., Space Station Licensing Rules and Policies, First Reconsideration Order and Fifth Report and Order, FCC 04-147, 19 FCC Rcd 12637, 12653, ¶ 39 ("we generally permit licensees to modify their systems to adapt to changing business and customer needs," citing the AMSC Modification Order and other cases).

²² Galaxy 27 Relicensing Application, Narrative at 1.

²³ Id. Intelsat indicated that it intended to relocate another satellite in its fleet to the 129° W.L. orbital location to provide service in lieu of Galaxy 27. See id. at 2 n.1.

status of the Swedish ITU filings at that position. There will be no adverse effect on existing customers because AMC-2 traffic will have been transferred to other satellites before the planned relocation commences. Thus, the facts here are squarely within the precedent established in the Galaxy 27 relocation proceeding, and grant of similar authority is warranted.

The proposed transfer of AMC-2 will have no effect on the U.S. Administration's ITU filing for the 79° W.L. orbital location. As discussed above, subject to the grant of required Commission authority, SES Americom intends to return AMC-2 to the nominal 79° W.L. orbital location following the successful launch of SES-5 to the nominal 5° E.L. orbital location. If the Commission grants the requested relief under Section 25.161(c), SES Americom would have to resume C- and Ku-band service using AMC-2 at 79° W.L. within 14 months or risk the cancellation of its license at that location. Because the ITU rules permit Administrations to suspend the use of a recorded frequency assignment for a period of up to two years, ²⁴ the planned return of AMC-2 to the nominal 79° W.L. orbital location will allow the existing rights pursuant to the U.S. ITU filing at this location to be retained.

Please address any further questions regarding this matter to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Karis A. Hastings

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cc: Robert Nelson Stephen Duall Karl Kensinger Alyssa Roberts

²⁴ ITU Radio Regulations No. 11.49.

Exhibit E: Response to Items 34, 40 and A20

OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF SES ASTRA AB

In this application, SES Americom, Inc. ("SES Americom") and its commonly-owned affiliate SES ASTRA AB ("ASTRA AB") seek FCC consent to the transfer of control of the AMC-2 satellite from U.S. licensing authority to Swedish licensing authority upon relocation of the spacecraft to the nominal 5° E.L. orbital location. Although ASTRA AB will not become an FCC licensee as a result of the proposed transfer, information regarding the ownership and control of ASTRA AB is provided herein in response to items 34, 40 and A20.

Like SES Americom, ASTRA AB is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of SES S.A. ("SES," formerly known as SES Global S.A.). SES ASTRA S.A. ("SES ASTRA"), a direct wholly-owned subsidiary of SES, holds 67.66% of the capital stock of ASTRA AB. The remaining 32.34% of the capital stock of ASTRA AB is held by SES Global Americas Holdings GP, a Delaware general partnership that is owned 99.94% by SES and 0.06% by SES ASTRA. SES Global Americas Holdings GP also holds 100% of the capital stock of SES Global-Americas, Inc., which in turn holds 100% of the capital stock of SES Americom. SES and SES ASTRA are both Luxembourg companies, and ASTRA AB is a Swedish company. The other entities are U.S. corporations or partnerships.

SES wholly owns SES Americom, SES ASTRA, and New Skies Satellites B.V. Through its subsidiaries and affiliates, SES engages in the provision of satellite services throughout the world.

The offices of ASTRA AB are at Kista Science Tower, Färögatan 33, SE-164 51 Kista, Sweden. The offices of SES and SES ASTRA are at L-6815 Château de Betzdorf, Luxembourg. The address of SES Americom, SES Global-Americas, Inc., and SES Global Americas Holdings GP is 4 Research Way, Princeton, NJ 08540.

The names, addresses, and citizenship of stockholders owning of record and/or voting 10 percent or more of SES voting stock are:

1. The Etat du Grand Duché de Luxembourg (the "State of Luxembourg") – and Banque et Caisse d'Epargne de l'Etat ("BCEE") and Société Nationale de Crédit et d'Investisement ("SNCI"), each of which is an institution created by act of the Luxembourg Parliament and 100% owned by the State of Luxembourg – hold Class B shares of SES representing a combined effective economic interest of 16.67% and effective voting power of 33.33%. In addition, in 2007 and 2008 these entities received SES Fiduciary Deposit Receipts ("FDRs"), which each represent one Class A share of SES. The FDRs distributed to these entities represent a combined 5.43% economic interest and effective voting power of 4.35%. SES Americom has no information regarding whether the Class B shareholders continue to hold these FDRs. The principal business of both BCEE and SNCI is financial services. The addresses of BCEE and SNCI are as follows:

Banque et Caisse d'Epargne de l'Etat 1, place de Metz L-2954 Luxembourg

Société Nationale de Crédit et d'Investisement 7, place du St. Esprit L-1475 Luxembourg

The address for the State of Luxembourg is Ministry of State, 4 rue de la Congrégation, L-2910, Luxembourg.

Directors and Officers

The directors and officers of ASTRA AB are:

Ferdinand Kayser Norbert Hölzle Padraig McCarthy Håkan Sjödin Ranjani Srinivasan

Mr. Kayser is a Luxembourg national, Mr. Hölzle is a German national, and Mr. McCarthy is an Irish national, and their address is: L-6815 Château de Betzdorf, Luxembourg. Mr. Sjödin and Ms. Srinivasan are Swedish nationals, and their address is: SES ASTRA AB, Kista Science Tower, Färögatan 33, SE-164 51 Kista, Sweden.

The directors of SES Americom are:

Robert Bednarek Robert J. Kisilywicz David J. Lidstone Sergy Mummert Mike J. Noon

The address of Messrs. Bednarek, Kisilywicz, Lidstone, Mummert and Noon is SES Americom, Inc., 4 Research Way, Princeton, NJ 08540. All of the directors are U.S. citizens.

The officers of SES Americom are:

NAME	TITLE
Robert Bednarek	President & CEO
Robert J. Kisilywicz	Senior Vice President & CFO
Steve Bunke	Vice President
Carl Capista	Vice President
Christopher Coogan	Vice President
Steve Corda	Vice President
Peter Gustafson	Vice President
Robert Jones	Vice President/Controller
Richard A. Langhans	Vice President
David J. Lidstone	Vice President/Assistant Secretary
Sergy Mummert	Vice President
John A. Nelsen	Vice President
Maureen Offord	Vice President
Steven Osman	Vice President
Aaron Shourie	Vice President/Assistant Secretary
Daniel Mah	Assistant Secretary
Suzanne Malloy	Assistant Secretary
Hanaa Nasr	Assistant Treasurer - Taxes

The address of all the officers is SES Americom, Inc., 4 Research Way, Princeton, NJ 08540. With the exception of Mr. Mah, who is an Australian national, all of the officers are U.S. nationals.



Date Page 2011-08-15 1(1)

Your date Your reference

Kiamal Akperov Frequency Management Department Swedish Post and Telecom Agency SES ASTRA AB Attn. Mrs. Ranjani Srinivasan Färögatan 33 SE-164 51 Kista Sweden

Fax: +1 202 418 1208

Subject: Operation of AMC-2 at 4.98°E

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Swedish Post and Telecom Agency, PTS would like to refer to our previous letter (subject: "SIRIUS-5E filings at 5° East Longitude"), dated 25 May, 2011.

SES ASTRA AB has informed PTS that AMC-2 will be operating at 4.98°E, and PTS supports the operation of AMC-2 at 4.98°E under Swedish ITU filings, which have been submitted to ITU on behalf of SES ASTRA AB.

Best Regards,

Helena Åkerlund

Head of the Fixed Radio and Satellite Unit

Swedish Post and Telecom Agency

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