

April 24, 2006



Via Hand Delivery

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

Re **Stratos Communications Inc.** (SES-LFS-20050826-01175, SES-AMD-20050922-01313, SES-AMD-20051117-01590, ITC-214-20050826-00351, SES-STA-20060310-00419, ITC-STA-20060310-00149);
Telenor Satellite, Inc. (SES-LFS-20050930-01352, SES-AMD-20051111-01564, ITC-214-20051005-00395, SES-STA-20060313-00430, ITC-STA-20060313-00150)
FTMSC US, LLC (SES-LFS-20051011-01396, SES-AMD-20051118-01602, ITC-214-20051012-0406, SES-STA-20060314-00438, ITC-STA-20060314-00158);
MVS USA, Inc. (SES-LFS-20051123-01634, SES-AMD-20060324-00799, SES-STA-20060316-00454);
BT Americas Inc. (SES-LFS-20060303-00343, SES-AMD-20060316-00448, SES-STA-20060315-00445)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of National Public Radio, Inc. ("NPR"), I am writing in support of the above-referenced applications seeking authority to provide Broadband Global Area Network (BGAN) Mobile Satellite Service in the domestic United States and internationally. We understand that an incumbent provider of satellite services, Mobile Satellite Ventures Subsidiary, LLC, has opposed the authorization of these services. Although we believe the proponents of the BGAN services have presented a strong case in favor of authorization, NPR is writing to comment specifically on the need for additional mobile satellite services and, in particular, the advanced BGAN services.

NPR is a non-profit membership corporation which produces and distributes noncommercial educational programming through more than 800 public radio stations nationwide. Known for such award-winning news and information programming as *All Things Considered*®, *Morning Edition*®, and *Talk Of The Nation*®, NPR produces, acquires, and distributes some 120 hours of news, talk, music, and entertainment programming each week. Hourly Newscasts are provided 24hours a day, 7 days a week. In addition to Washington and Los Angeles production centers, NPR maintains a substantial national and international presence with correspondents and reporters in 38 U.S. and foreign cities, 5 U.S. news bureaus and 17 U.S. offices, 5 foreign news bureaus

and 10 foreign offices. NPR correspondents posted to overseas offices and bureaus typically spend more than half their time on the road covering stories in countries other than their home base.

As we understand it, the BGAN service would offer a compelling array of advanced Mobile Satellite Service ("MSS") features. First and foremost, the proposed services will allow consumers to obtain enhanced MSS offerings at much higher data transmission speeds than current MSS product offerings. This would allow the use of high-bandwidth applications that either are not supported by or offer limited functionality with existing MSS offerings. Among other things, the higher data transmission rates would allow users to access e-mail, local area networks, the Internet, intranet/extranets, and voice communications from virtually anywhere in the world. In addition, the BGAN service and hardware would offer greater portability and flexibility than VSAT systems, a greater coverage footprint than terrestrial mobile services, and greater reliability and ease of use than other mobile satellite data services.

As a news organization with a substantial newsgathering presence around the world, NPR has a compelling need for advanced MSS services. It is a fact of life that political, social, and other newsworthy developments can occur any where in the world, at any time, and modern news coverage requires both journalists in the field and the technical means for them to report the story. Domestic stories, such as the West Virginia mine disasters, Katrina and other natural disasters occur under conditions in which the absence of readily accessible, on-site transmission facilities make satellite-based telecommunications essential to timely news reporting. BGAN features, including access to e-mail, local area networks, the Internet, intranet/extranets and ISDN, would allow NPR's reporters and correspondents to function as though they were sitting at a desk at NPR's Washington, DC production headquarters. Indeed, BGAN promises to improve our ability to provide wider, quicker, clearer news reporting for the American Public from areas with poor or destroyed infrastructure.

Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons and absent demonstrable interference concerns, NPR urges the Commission to approve expeditiously the above-referenced authorization requests.

Sincerely,

Ken Stern /s/

Ken Stern
Executive Vice President

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Gregory A. Lewis, hereby certify that on this 26th day of April, 2006, I caused the foregoing Letter of National Public Radio, Inc. to be served upon the following by first-class United States mail, postage prepaid (except as otherwise indicated):

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