

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION

This application is for earth station facilities located in Brewster, Washington, to be used in connection with BlackSky Global LLC 's ("BlackSky") FCC-licensed commercial non-geostationary satellite orbit ("NGSO") Earth Exploration Satellite Service Global constellation,¹ including, once authorized by the Commission, additional satellites that are the subject of a pending satellite modification application.²

The facilities are of critical importance to the launch and early operation phase ("LEOP") for BlackSky's first two Global satellites that are the subject of its pending satellite modification application and that are currently scheduled for launch on June 22, 2020. Because of the inclination of the launch, BlackSky is highly dependent on three sites for LEOP located in: New Zealand, Germany, and Guam.³ Unfortunately, each of the New Zealand and Germany facilities are currently in need of repair, without which each is at risk of failing for LEOP support. To date, due to COVID -19 related transportation and travel restrictions, BlackSky has been unable to deliver new parts to these facilities and, even once those parts a finally delivered, may not be able to get necessary personnel to the sites for installation in time for the facilities to be used for LEOP support for the upcoming launch.

BlackSky's only other earth station facility that may be capable of LEOP support is located in Alaska. Effective use of that facility for LEOP purposes will require BlackSky to operate it a higher power than currently authorized though subject to a long-pending modification application.⁴ Even if that modification application is granted in time, however, the low elevations from this site will allow transmissions to the new Global satellites only once or twice a day.

The earth station facilities will be located at a teleport that is operated by USEI. BlackSky will own the UHF antennae to be employed and USEI will own the S and X band antennae. Pursuant to its contemplated operating agreement with USEI, BlackSky will control all transmissions from the earth station and operation and direction of the antennae. BlackSky notes that USEI's facilities already operate in all of the frequency bands though not on the exact frequencies for which license is sought herein.

BlackSky is initiating coordination activities with respect to the S-band (2025-2100 MHz) frequencies sought to be employed both with the federal government and

¹ BlackSky Global LLC, Callsign S3032, SAT-MOD-20190314-00015.

² See FCC File No. SAT-MOD-20190802-00070

³ See ATLAS Space Operations, Inc, Callsign E190037, FCC File No. SES-LIC-20181224-03650.

⁴ See BlackSky Global LLC, Callsign E180696, FCC File No. SES-MOD-20190725-00954; see also FCC File No. SES-STA-20190628-00850.

Comsearch relative to non-federal operations in the band. Due to the time sensitivity of this matter, BlackSky is submitting this application while such coordination is still to be completed. BlackSky understands that any grant of this application prior to the completion of such coordination will be subject to a condition that such coordination be completed before transmission in the S-band may be made. If and to the extent required, BlackSky seeks a waiver of the Commission's rules to allow it to proceed in this fashion.

BlackSky further notes that Condition 7 to its space station license restricts its transmission of remote sensing data in the 8025-8400 MHz frequency band to earth stations that have been coordinated with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Until such coordination is completed, BlackSky will not use the requested facilities for the receipt of signals in this band.