

Radiation Hazard Analysis

Phased Array Earth Station In Motion

Introduction

This analysis calculates the non-ionizing radiation levels for a SpaceX Services, Inc. (“SpaceX Services”) phased array earth station for use on moving platforms (“ESIM”). The calculations performed in this analysis comply with the methods described in FCC Office of Engineering and Technology Bulletin, Number 65 (Edition 97-01) (“Bulletin 65”). This analysis demonstrates that SpaceX Services ESIMs are compliant and will not result in exposure levels exceeding the applicable radiation hazard limits.

Bulletin 65 and Section 1.1310 of the Commission's rules specify two separate tiers of exposure limits: one for Occupational/Controlled Exposures and one for General Population/Uncontrolled Exposures. Limits for Occupational/Controlled Exposures apply in situations where persons are exposed as a consequence of their employment and are fully aware of and can control their exposure. These limits also apply in situations where a person is transient through a location where such limits would otherwise apply provided the person is made aware of the potential for exposure. The limits for General Population/Uncontrolled Exposure apply in situations in which the general public may be exposed, or in which persons that are exposed as a consequence of their employment may not be fully aware of the potential for exposure or cannot exercise control over their exposure. SpaceX Services will ensure installation of ESIM terminals on vehicles and vessels by qualified installers who have an understanding of the antenna's radiation environment and the measures best suited to maximize protection of the general public and persons operating the vehicle and equipment. While many ESIMs will be deployed in Occupational/Controlled Environments, some will likely be deployed in General Population/Uncontrolled Environments as well. Accordingly, to ensure protection of the public, this analysis discusses only the Maximum Permissible Exposure (“MPE”) limit for General Population/Uncontrolled exposures, which for the Ku-band frequencies used by these ESIMs is a power density equal to 1 mW/cm^2 averaged over a thirty-minute period.¹

As described in the definitional section below, this report analyzes the maximum power density levels in the vicinity of an ESIM antenna in three regions: (1) the far field, (2) the near field, and (3) near the main reflector surface. These radiation regions were analyzed using the definitions and formulas in Bulletin 65 for aperture antennas. Note that the SpaceX Services ESIM is a flat phased array, such that the other region normally included in analyses for parabolic dishes (*i.e.*, between the main reflector and the feed) is not applicable in this case.² The results of this analysis are summarized in Table 1, which identifies the potential exposure under worst-case operating conditions.

¹ See 47 C.F.R. § 1.1310(e).

² Bulletin 65 also calls for consideration of the transition region between near field and far field. However, the power density in the transition region will be less than the maximum power density in the near field and more than the minimum power density in the far field for the purpose of evaluating potential exposure. Accordingly, if the analysis demonstrates compliance for both the near field and far field, it necessarily demonstrates compliance for the transition region.

ESIM Description

The ESIM is a flat phased array capable of steering its beams to track NGSO satellites passing within its field of view. As the terminal steers the transmitting beam, it also adjusts the power to maintain a constant level at the receiving antenna of its target satellite to the extent possible, compensating for variations in antenna gain and path loss associated with the steering angle. At the phased array's equivalent of an "antenna flange," the highest transmit power is 2.44 W. There is no difference in transmit power between ESIMs at the center or edge of the spot or between clear sky or heavy rain conditions.

The ESIM transmits bursts of information at designated times that are assigned to the terminal by the network. The duty cycle of the uplink transmissions is controlled by the network and independently monitored by the software controlling the ESIM; this ensures that the transmit duty cycle of a terminal cannot exceed 14% under any circumstances.

Explanation of the Analysis

The "Calculated Values" in Table 1 are the exposure rates calculated using the formulae from Bulletin 65 for a system with continuous (100% transmit duty cycle) transmission. SpaceX Services ESIMs, however, transmit only short bursts of data periodically as instructed by the network and are neither designed for nor capable of continuous transmission. Therefore, in order to compute the effective radiated energy of a SpaceX Services ESIM, the terminal's maximum possible transmitter duty cycle has been used to adjust the values calculated using the Bulletin 65 methodology. Accordingly, the calculated figures reflect the total potential for human exposure based on the length of time that the ESIM transmits energy during a rolling thirty-minute period.

Results of Analysis

This analysis demonstrates that the SpaceX Services ESIM is not a radiation hazard because the terminal does not exceed the MPE limit of 1 mW/cm² averaged over a thirty-minute period.

Conclusion

This radiation hazard analysis demonstrates that SpaceX Services ESIMs will not result in exposure levels exceeding the applicable MPE limits.

Definitions

1) Far Field Region

The far field region extends outward from the antenna surface, beginning at a distance of $\frac{0.6D^2}{\lambda}$ meters where the D is the diameter of the antenna. The maximum power density is calculated using the equation recommended in Bulletin 65.

2) Near Field Region

The near field region is a volume co-incident with the direction of the main beam extending outward from the antenna surface the length of the near field $\frac{D^2}{4\lambda}$ meters.

3) Transition Region

The transition region is located between the near field region and the far field region. This region has a power density that decreases with increasing distance. Therefore, the power density in the transition region will be less than the maximum power density in the near field and more than the maximum power density in the far field for the purpose of evaluating potential exposure.

4) Region Near the Antenna Surface

The power density near the antenna surface can be estimated as equal to four times the power divided by the area of the main reflector surface (phased array illumination is uniform).

TABLE 1: RADIATION FROM SPACEX PHASED ARRAY EARTH STATION IN MOTION

Input Parameters

Antenna Dimensions	$D_1 = 0.48 \text{ m}, D_2 = 0.29 \text{ m}$
Frequency	$f = 14.5 \text{ GHz}$
Max Power into antenna	$P_{max} = 2.44 \text{ W}$
Max EIRP	$EIRP_{max} = 6606.9 \text{ W}$ $10 \log(EIRP_{max}) = 38.2 \text{ dBW}$
Aperture efficiency [%]	$\eta = 73\%$
Maximum Transmit Duty Cycle	$DTx = 14 \%$

Calculated Values

Wavelength	$\lambda = \frac{c}{f} = 0.0207 \text{ m}$
Area of Reflector	$A = 0.139 \text{ m}^2$
Max Antenna Gain	$G_{max} = \frac{\eta 4\pi A}{\lambda^2} = 2987$ $10 \log(G_{max}) = 34.75 \text{ dB}$
Length of Near Field	$R_{nf} = \frac{D_1^2}{4\lambda} = 2.78 \text{ m}$
Beginning of Far Field	$R_{ff} = 0.6 \frac{D_1^2}{\lambda} = 6.68 \text{ m}$

Maximum Power Density Calculations

Power Density in Far Field	$S_{ff} = DTx \frac{EIRP_{max}}{4\pi R_{ff}^2} = 0.16 \frac{\text{mW}}{\text{cm}^2}$
Power Density in Near Field	$S_{nf} = DTx \frac{4\eta P_{max}}{A} = 0.72 \frac{\text{mW}}{\text{cm}^2}$
Power Density at Antenna Surface	$S_{ref} = DTx \frac{4P_{max}}{A} = 0.98 \frac{\text{mW}}{\text{cm}^2}$