

**Exhibit A**  
**HNS License Sub, LLC**  
**Modification of License Application**  
**April 2012**

**Description of Application**

HNS License Sub, LLC (“Hughes”) seeks to modify its earth station license under Call Sign E060383 in two respects: First, Hughes seeks to substitute EchoStar XVII, as proposed for operation under a Commission license in File No. SAT-LOA-20120424-00075 (“EchoStar XVII Application”), for EchoStar XVII as a United Kingdom space object, as a point of communication. Second, Hughes seeks to have the Commission remove or waive Condition No. 90024, which specifies that the authority to operate the licensed earth station facilities with EchoStar XVII (f/k/a Jupiter 1 and Spaceway 4) will become effective “upon grant of authorization for launch and space operations under the UK Outer Space Act (1986)[,]” and that such authority “shall immediately cease in the event of denial of any request for such authorization.” Because EchoStar XVII is due to be launched on June 19, 2012, and authority to communicate with the satellite via the U.S. earth station facilities licensed to Hughes will be required shortly thereafter, Hughes respectfully requests expedited processing of this Modification Application.

Hughes holds authority to access the U.S. market via a U.K.-authorized EchoStar XVII satellite under a letter of intent issued by the Commission in May 2010 in File No. SAT-LOI-20091110-00119 (“EchoStar XVII LOI”). On April 24, 2012, Hughes filed the EchoStar XVII Application to launch and operate EchoStar XVII under a Commission license. The instant Modification Application seeks to have the U.S.-licensed EchoStar XVII replace the U.K.-licensed EchoStar XVII satellite as a point of communication for all antennas for which the

U.K.-licensed EchoStar XVII satellite is currently listed as a point of communication. There is only one EchoStar XVII satellite, and there are no technical changes at all between the U.K.-licensed and U.S.-licensed version of the EchoStar XVII satellite.

Condition No. 90024 on the current earth station license conditions effectiveness of the authority to operate the earth station's antennas with EchoStar XVII on the grant of launch and operational authority for the satellite under the United Kingdom's Outer Space Act of 1986. As it appears unlikely that the United Kingdom's Space Agency will be the government that issues launch authority for the EchoStar XVII spacecraft, Hughes anticipates that it will not be able to satisfy Condition No. 90024. Hughes Network Systems, LLC ("HNS"), which is a parent company of Hughes, has proposed in the EchoStar XVII Application to have launch and operational authority for the satellite assumed by the Commission. For this reason, and to enable Hughes to use its earth station facilities to control and communicate with EchoStar XVII upon completion of in-orbit testing following the June 19, 2012 launch, Hughes urges the Commission to remove or waive Condition No. 90024. As an alternative, Hughes urges the Commission to modify the condition to specify only that HNS possess governmental authority to launch and operate EchoStar XVII.

Although Hughes responds "yes" to Question 42b on FCC Form 312, this response refers to the fact that non-U.S.-licensed satellites are already included as points of communication on the earth station license. No new non-U.S.-licensed satellites would be accessed as a result of this Modification Application.