

Description of Request

MTN License Corp. (“MTN”) requests modification of its C-band ESV authorization (Call Sign E050281) to operate remote earth stations licensed at a single fixed location in Petaluma, California. Specifically, MTN seeks authority to deploy ESV remotes of the type authorized to MTN under Call Sign E050281 on land, at the assembly, integration and testing (“AIT”) facility MTN now uses for the subject antenna, to validate antenna performance of each unit as assembly is completed. Transmissions from the antenna will use the 5925-6391 and 6414-6425 MHz bands, and receive operations will use the 3700-4200 MHz band.

All technical specifications of the antenna – Sea Tel Model No. 9797-11 – are as currently authorized to MTN in its license for Call Sign E050281, except for the fact that the antennas will be utilized from a fixed point on land. Operations from the site will be relatively limited, as only those transmissions and receptions that are needed to confirm operational status of each unit will be made. MTN incorporates herein the technical specifications and radiation hazard study for the antenna as provided in File No. SES-MOD-20060828-01518 (the application proceeding underlying Call Sign E050281).

In support of this request, MTN provides the attached frequency coordination report, which concludes that MTN operations in the Petaluma area using the remotes units will not interfere with terrestrial operations. The remote units will communicate using conventional C-band frequencies with NSS-9 at 177° W.L. (licensed by the Netherlands), Horizons 1 at 127° W.L. (licensed by Japan), and SatMex 5 at 116.8° W.L. (licensed by Mexico).

Grant of the instant request will serve the public interest by allowing MTN to test its C-band ESV remotes at its new AIT facility in Petaluma on a permanent basis.¹ Use of this AIT facility will expedite the final assembly, validation and live performance testing of these remote units, thereby allowing MTN to offer its rapidly expanding ESV maritime telecommunication services to customers on a more timely, cost-effective basis. Testing at the new AIT facility will also help ensure that the specific requirements of ESV operation specified in Section 25.221 of the Commission’s rules will be diligently adhered to by MTN ESVs. This promotes the efficiency of use of the shared C-band frequencies by satellite and terrestrial systems, and will help protect C-band satellites operating from orbital locations adjacent to those MTN uses for its ESV services.

¹ On April 26, 2010, the International Bureau granted MTN’s request for special temporary authority to operate its C-band ESV earth stations at the Petaluma location for a period of 60 days. See File No. SES-STA-20091119-01480.

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Commission Denial of Applications

In 1998, Maritime Telecommunications Network, Inc., which wholly owns the applicant MTN License Corp., applied to the Commission for authority to establish 32 earth stations to provide fixed-satellite service on a primary basis in 17 U.S. seaports. *See Applications for Fixed Earth Station Licenses, File Nos. SES-LIC-19980911-01272, et al.* In a 2000 decision in *Maritime Telecommunications Network, Inc.*, 15 FCC Rcd 23210 (Int'l Bur. 2000) (subsequent history omitted), the International Bureau denied Maritime Telecommunications Network's applications on the ground that the Commission does not have jurisdiction to license earth stations on foreign vessels.

FAA Notification

The antennas to be used in connection with the earth stations proposed herein are exempt from notification to the Federal Aviation Administration because the antennas are located in an area with structures of a permanent and substantial character that are taller than the antennas themselves, and because the antennas have a height of less than 20 feet. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 17.14(a) and (b).