

EXHIBIT 1

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MODIFICATION (Response to Question 43, Form 312)

Pursuant to Section 25.117(e) of the Commission’s rules,¹ HNS License Sub, LLC (together with its affiliates, “Hughes”) requests authorization for an additional six-month extension—until June 30 and December 14, 2023—of the required construction completion dates of two gateway earth stations licensed for communications with EchoStar XXIV (also known as “Jupiter 3”), a Ka- and Q/V-band geostationary orbit satellite authorized to provide fixed satellite service, as specified in the table below.

Call Sign	Location	IBFS File Number	Required Completion Date	Proposed Completion Date
E170163	Simi Valley, CA	SES-MOD-20220627-00696	December 31, 2022	June 30, 2023
E170166	Rifle, CO	SES-MOD-20220414-00395	June 14, 2023	December 14, 2023

Consistent with Section 25.117(e),² the requested extension of time is warranted due to: (i) unforeseeable circumstances beyond Hughes’ control, including disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and other manufacturing delays; and (ii) unique and overriding public interest considerations. Notably, the licensed gateways here are not ordinary, off-the-shelf equipment, and thus require special components and manufacturing processes that have been impacted by unanticipated manufacturing delays. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused severe supply chain disruptions, impacting all aspects of gateway construction, including securing access to gateway sites; installing related fiber and data centers; and procuring, assembling, and installing antenna facilities. For example, social distancing and working-from-

¹ See 47 C.F.R. § 25.117(e).

² See *id.* § 25.117(e)(1)-(2).

home guidelines have created inefficiencies and restrictions on available personnel, resulting in delays in local site permitting and application review. The lack of experienced sub-contractors, crew, and other personnel available to travel and work on site also has created material delays in installing and testing antenna equipment. Consistent with its practice of authorizing similar relief and flexibility to licensees impacted by COVID-19,³ the Commission has granted prior extensions for 11 of Hughes' licensed EchoStar XXIV gateways, including the gateways here.⁴

Furthermore, grant of the requested extension will permit deployment of key components of the overall EchoStar XXIV satellite network, thus enabling Hughes to offer unique and compelling public interest benefits, including additional advanced broadband services to more than 1.5 million customers across the Americas. EchoStar XXIV, along with its capacity and transmission speed capabilities, will join the Hughes fleet of satellites to offer a truly competitive broadband alternative across the country. The satellite will provide additional capacity and help solve the digital divide by offering advanced broadband services with download speeds of 100 Mbps or higher to small businesses and other enterprises, government agencies, and residential customers across the United States and the Americas. EchoStar XXIV also will support a variety of applications, including broadband access, aeronautical services for in-flight connectivity, residential and business voice-over-the-Internet, and next generation communications services, including 5G.

³ See, e.g., *The Office of Managing Director and Wireline Competition Bureau Suspend the Red Light Rule for the COVID-19 Telehealth Program*, Public Notice, 35 FCC Rcd 3685 (OMD/WCB 2020); *Sponsorship Identification Requirements*, Order, 35 FCC Rcd 3012 (MB 2020); News Release, FCC, *FCC Provides Relief that Enables Rural Broadband and Phone Providers to Immediately Waive Consumer Fees* (rel. Apr. 1, 2020).

⁴ See *Satellite Communications Services Information re: Actions Taken*, Public Notice, Report No. SES-02432 (Jan. 12, 2022); *Satellite Communications Services Information re: Actions Taken*, Public Notice, Report No. SES-02342 (Mar. 3, 2021).

Additionally, ensuring successful launch and operations of the EchoStar XXIV satellite network will bolster Hughes' disaster relief efforts and capabilities. In many cases, satellite is the only reliable communications system following a natural disaster.⁵ Indeed, Hughes has provided crucial broadband services in the wake of numerous disasters, including Hurricane Michael in 2018 and Hurricane Dorian in 2019.⁶

Hughes's ubiquitous service coverage and capacity remain key to meeting unprecedented consumer broadband demand resulting from the coronavirus pandemic. Notably, during the pandemic, Hughes has provided invaluable broadband connectivity to rural, remote, and underserved areas, including by: (i) delivering service within two to three days, thus allowing subscribers to work remotely, participate in distance learning, engage with tele-health providers, and connect to advanced and specialized applications; (ii) deploying Internet access within a matter of days to a military base in North Carolina where troops were quarantined after returning from deployment; and (iii) providing broadband service to homeless students staying with community members in rural New Mexico and connecting a community students hub in rural Oklahoma, thus enabling students in hard-to-reach areas to continue their education without interruption.⁷ As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact broadband usage and demand for

⁵ See Comments of Liga de Cooperativas de Puerto Rico, WC Dkt. No. 18-143 et al., at 1-2 (Jul. 2, 2018); see also *The Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund and the Connect USVI Fund*, Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration, 34 FCC Rcd 9109, ¶ 46 (2019) ("We agree with numerous commenters that allowing inclusion of satellite providers is particularly valuable in the context of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands due to satellite's resilience and availability post-hurricanes.").

⁶ See, e.g., EchoStar Satellite Services, LLC, Special Temporary Authorizations to Extend Service to the Bahamas for Emergency Operations, File Nos. SAT-STA-20190925-00101 & SAT-STA-20190906-00088 (Sept. 13 & Nov. 14, 2019).

⁷ See Hughes, *How Satellite is Helping the Fight Against COVID-19* (Apr. 15, 2020), <https://www.hughes.com/resources/blog/how-satellite-helping-fight-against-covid-19>; Hughes, *Connecting Remote and Rural Businesses*, <https://www.hughes.com/resources/connecting-remote-and-rural-businesses> (last visited May 10, 2022);

years to come, the requested extension serves the public interest by facilitating deployment of additional advanced broadband services to consumers, including those in remote and underserved areas of the United States and the Americas.

Accordingly, Hughes urges the Commission to grant the requested six-month extension of time in view of unique and overriding public interest considerations, as well as unanticipated disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and other manufacturing delays.

DECLARATION

On behalf of HNS License Sub, LLC (“Hughes”), I declare under penalty of perjury that the following is true and correct to the best of my current knowledge, information, and belief:

- 1) the requested extension of time is warranted due to unforeseeable circumstances beyond Hughes’ control, including disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and other manufacturing delays, as detailed in the foregoing Exhibit 1; and
- 2) the requested extension of time is further warranted due to unique and overriding public interest considerations, as detailed in the foregoing Exhibit 1.

/s/ Jennifer A. Manner
Jennifer A. Manner
Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs

Date: December 13, 2022