

Speedcast Communications, Inc.
Call Sign E030170, File No. SES-MFS-20081219-01662
Renewal of License
Sept. 19, 2018

Additional Information and Request for Waiver

Pursuant to Section 1.3 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.3, Speedcast Communications, Inc. ("Speedcast") requests a waiver of the requirement of Section 25.121(e) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 25.121(e), that an application for renewal of a fixed satellite service ("FSS") earth station license be filed "no later than 30 days[] before the expiration date of the license."

The FCC may waive any provision of its rules, in whole or in part, for "good cause shown," 47 C.F.R. § 1.3. Here, the above-referenced license covers three satellite earth station antennae located at Speedcast's Houston teleport. These antennae provide a vital link to numerous customer terminals in remote locations throughout the hemisphere, including cruise ships, offshore oil platforms, and isolated terrestrial sites. In many cases, terrestrial communications networks do not reach these locations, meaning that Speedcast's remote terminals provide its customers with their primary link to global communications networks and services. Speedcast will have great difficulty maintaining these services after October 14, 2108, if it were to lose the use of the teleport antennae covered by Call Sign E030170. In addition, a waiver would not undermine the purposes of the rule in the unique circumstances presented here.

Speedcast is in the process of consolidating its teleport operations. That process is taking longer than expected, creating the unanticipated need to renew this license and resulting in submission of this renewal application only a few days later than the time frame contemplated in Section 25.121(e). Speedcast expects to close the Houston teleport and relocate the antennae authorized under this license within the next three to six months but, out of an abundance of caution, is requesting renewal of operating authority for up to one year for the subject earth station facilities.

Should the renewal remain pending on the expiration date of the license, October 14, 2018, the requested waiver will also remove any doubt as to whether Speedcast's renewal application is "proper and timely" for purposes of Section 1.62(a)(1) of the Commission's rules. That rule provides authority Speedcast to continue operating these earth stations after the expiration date of the license, while its "proper and timely" renewal application is pending.¹

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 1.62(a)(1) (providing that "[w]here there is pending before the Commission at the time of expiration of license any proper and timely application for renewal of license with respect to any activity of a continuing nature . . . , such license shall continue in effect without further action by the Commission until such time as the Commission shall make a final determination with respect to the renewal application").