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# Federal Communications Commission

Office of Secretary

#### Before the **Federal Communications Commission** Washington, D.C. 20554

In the matter of	
SkyWave Mobile Communications, Inc.	) File No. SES-STA-20060710-01131 (Call Sign E030055)
Stratos Communications, Inc.	File No. SES-STA-20060710-01125 (Call Sign E010047) File No. SES-STA-20060710-01126 (Call Sign E000180) File No. SES-STA-20060710-01127 (Call Sign E010048) File No. SES-STA-20060710-01132 (Call Sign E010050) File No. SES-STA-INTR2006-01759 (Call Sign E010049)
Satamatics, Inc.	) File No. SES-STA-20060710-01130 (Call Sign E020074)
Telenor Satellite Inc.	File No. SES-STA-20060705-01101 (Call Sign E000284) File No. SES-STA-20060705-01102 (Call Sign E000285) File No. SES-STA-20060705-01103 (Call Sign E000283) File No. SES-STA-20060705-01104 (Call Sign E000282) File No. SES-STA-20060705-01105 (Call Sign E000280) File No. SES-STA-20060705-01106 (Call Sign WA28) File No. SES-STA-20060705-01107 (Call Sign KA312) File No. SES-STA-20060705-01108 (Call Sign WB36)

### RESPONSE OF MOBILE SATELLITE VENTURES SUBSIDIARY LLC

Mobile Satellite Ventures Subsidiary LLC ("MSV") hereby files this Response to the Joint Reply of SkyWave Mobile Communications, Inc. ("SkyWave"), Stratos Communications, Inc. ("Stratos"), Satamatics, Inc. ("Satamatics"), Telenor Satellite Inc. ("Telenor"), and Inmarsat Ventures Limited ("Inmarsat") to MSV's Comments on the above-captioned request for a third 60-day renewal of existing grants of Special Temporary Authority ("STA") to operate earliergeneration mobile earth terminals using the uncoordinated Inmarsat 4F2 satellite at 52.75° W.L.1

See Joint Reply of SkyWave Mobile Communications, Inc., Stratos Communications Inc., Satamatics, Inc., Telenor Satellite Inc., and Inmarsat Ventures Limited, File No. SES-STA-20060705-01101 et al (August 1, 2006) ("Joint Reply"); see also Mobile Satellite Ventures Subsidiary LLC, Comments, File No. SES-STA-20060705-01101 et al (July 17, 2006) ("MSV Comments").

As MSV explained in its Comments, the Bureau should continue to apply the conditions imposed on the original STA grants for earlier-generation services as well as (i) immediately require Inmarsat to cease its use of the loaned frequencies and (ii) establish a firm expiration date for these STAs without Inmarsat having completed coordination of the Inmarsat 4F2 satellite with the United States.

In the Joint Reply, Inmarsat and its distributors claim that use of the Inmarsat 4F2 satellite for earlier-generation services has not adversely affected the interference environment. *Joint Reply* at 1.<sup>2</sup> In fact, the opposite is true. Inmarsat and its distributors continue to refuse to relinquish the loaned frequencies despite the harm that is being caused to MSV and its customers. *MSV Comments* at 2-3. This harm is occurring today by precluding MSV from using these frequencies to support existing customers and for testing and deploying new, bandwidth-intensive services on its present system and for its next-generation integrated satellite-terrestrial network. As MSV noted in its Comments, public safety users have been particularly harmed by Inmarsat's refusal to return the loaned frequencies. *Id.* at 2. Inmarsat and its distributors are

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> In the Joint Reply, Inmarsat and its distributors incorporate various pleadings by reference. Joint Reply at 2. MSV hereby incorporates by reference its responses to those pleadings. See Letter from Ms. Jennifer A. Manner, MSV, to Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, FCC, File No. SES-MFS-20051122-01614 et al. (July 18, 2006) (responding to the Opposition of Inmarsat and its distributors to MSV's request that, to the extent the Commission grants the pending applications to operate with the uncoordinated Inmarsat 4F2 satellite despite the facts that (i) harmful interference will likely occur, (ii) grant of the applications prior to a coordination agreement is inconsistent with precedent, (iii) grant will condone Inmarsat's usurpation of spectrum coordinated by the United States and Canada as well as Inmarsat's continued abdication of its obligation to coordinate its satellites internationally, and (iv) grant would endorse the current inefficient, non-contiguous assignment of L band frequencies, then the Commission should attach certain conditions intended to mitigate some of this harm); Letter from Ms. Jennifer A. Manner, MSV, to Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, FCC, Call Signs E010011 et al. (July 18, 2006) (responding to the Opposition of Inmarsat and its distributors to MSV's request that the Commission preclude Inmarsat from using frequencies licensed to and coordinated for MSV and MSV Canada); Reply of MSV, File No. SES-MFS-20060118-00050 et al. (March 28, 2006) (responding to Inmarsat's Opposition to MSV's Petition to Hold in Abeyance Telenor Satellite Inc.'s application to provide non-BGAN Inmarsat service over Inmarsat 4F2).

wrong when they claim that public safety users have expressed concern only with the impact on MSV's next-generation system. *Joint Reply* at 3. In fact, public safety users have expressed concern to the Commission that Inmarsat's refusal to return the loaned frequencies will impede the critical services MSV offers today to public safety users. The Commonwealth of Kentucky's Division of Emergency Management, an MSV user, has informed the Commission that there is a significant risk that Inmarsat's uncoordinated operations will "interfere with our existing critical public safety operations" and that the loaned frequencies are "required for MSV to develop new and innovative service for public safety users, including additional services that further improve interoperable communications."<sup>3</sup>

Moreover, as MSV recently explained in Comments filed on the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NPRM") seeking input on the recommendations of the Independent Panel Reviewing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Communications Networks ("Katrina Panel"), MSV currently offers the only satellite-based push-to-talk ("PTT") service in the country today. This product allows point-to-point or point-to-multipoint voice communications among users in a customer-defined group using a PTT handset. Using a customer-defined calling group, a public safety user can communicate with one or up to 10,000 users simultaneously. With this technology, all users within the call group receive the same information simultaneously. During emergencies when terrestrial infrastructure is impaired,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See Letter from Commonwealth of Kentucky's Division of Emergency Management to Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, FCC, File No. SES-LFS-20050826-01175 et al (July 24, 2006); see also Letter from Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council for Trauma to Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, FCC, File No. SES-LFS-20050826-01175 et al (July 17, 2006).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See Recommendations of the Independent Panel Reviewing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Communications Networks, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, EB Docket No. 06-119, FCC 06-83 (June 16, 2006) ("NPRM").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See Comments of Mobile Satellite Ventures Subsidiary LLC, EB Docket No. 06-119 (August 7, 2006).

MSV's PTT service can be of critical importance in keeping first responders informed. In addition, MSV's PTT service can be interfaced with existing terrestrial-based public safety radios ("LMRs") or commercial Enhanced Specialized Mobile Radios ("ESMR"), and thus serve as a satellite repeater to both technologies. This enables the radios to continue to function even when the terrestrial infrastructure supporting the LMRs or ESMRs is destroyed. It is precisely this type of critical, interoperable public safety service that is being impeded by Inmarsat's continued refusal to return loaned frequencies and continued operation of uncoordinated satellites.

In its Comments, MSV requested that the Bureau provide a clear expiration date for these STAs unless Inmarsat has completed coordination of its new and relocated Inmarsat satellites, including rebanding of L band spectrum into more contiguous frequency blocks, which will reduce the potential for harmful interference and promote efficient use of spectrum. MSV Comments at 4-6. In response, Inmarsat claims that rebanding should be resolved during the L band coordination process. Joint Reply at 3. MSV agrees and once again invites Inmarsat to engage in coordination discussions. Commission action to facilitate rebanding, however, will in no way trump the international coordination process. Rather, such action will establish that the Commission expects L band operators to seek to maximize the potential of the L band for offering broadband services, which Chairman Martin recently explained is the Commission's top priority. If, however, the Bureau continues to grant and renew STAs for use of Inmarsat's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See Remarks of FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin, Imagining the Digital Healthcare Future in the Rural West, Montana State University – Bozeman (July 7, 2006) ("Since becoming Chairman about 16 months ago, I have made broadband deployment the Commission's top priority. . . Broadband technology is a key driver of economic growth. The ability to share increasing amounts of information, at greater and greater speeds, increases productivity, facilitates interstate commerce, and helps drive innovation. But perhaps most important, broadband has the potential to affect almost every aspect of our lives.").

uncoordinated satellites and services without insisting that it first complete coordination, there are no reasonable prospects that such coordination will ever be successfully completed.

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#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Sylvia A. Davis, a secretary with the law firm of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, hereby certify that on this 11th day of August 2006, served a true copy of the foregoing by first-class United States mail, postage prepaid, upon the following:

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