

Skybox Imaging, Inc.
Application for STA
January 2012
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Description of Request for Special Temporary Authority

Skybox Imaging, Inc. (“Skybox”) has filed an application for authority to operate a new earth station antenna located in Fairbanks, Alaska, which is intended to serve as the ground segment of its proposed non-geostationary orbit (“NGSO”) Earth Exploration Satellite Service (“EESS”) high-resolution imagery satellite system.¹ A reference copy of this application (File No. SES-LIC-INTR2012-00457; Submission ID IB2012000457) is included with this request. As detailed in the application, the proposed system’s ground segment will send telecommand signals to the SkySat-1 and SkySat-2 NGSO satellites using a primary or back-up channel in the 2025-2110 MHz band, which is authorized in the EESS. The earth station will receive communications from Skybox’s SkySat-1 and SkySat-2 satellites via three payload beams and a primary or secondary telemetry beam in the EESS band at 8025-8400 MHz.

Launch of the first SkySat satellites is due to take place later this year. Skybox has a need to test the system’s earth station prior to grant of permanent authority. Accordingly, Skybox requests special temporary authority (“STA”) to operate the proposed earth station for 60 days, beginning March 1, 2012, using the 2081 and 2083 MHz band telecommand frequencies it proposed in the underlying earth station application. Testing will not involve communications with any space stations, and thus no Points of Communication are specified herein. In addition, testing will be intermittent in nature, with operations to occur for up to two days at a time followed by several days of no operations to allow for testing results to be analyzed.

Grant of this STA request will serve the public interest by allowing Skybox to begin immediate testing of the ground segment of its proposed EESS service, which Skybox anticipates commencing with the launch of SkySat-1 in September 2012.

In summary, and on the basis of the information provided herein and in File No. SES-LIC-INTR2012-00457, Skybox requests, for a period of 60 days commencing on March 1, 2012, special temporary authority to operate its proposed earth station for testing purposes.

¹ Skybox requested authority to launch and operate its EESS satellite system on December 22, 2011. *See* File No. SAT-LOA-20111222-00246.