

REQUEST FOR SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY

Stratos Offshore Services Company (“SOSCO”), pursuant to Section 25.120 of the Commission’s rules, hereby requests special temporary authority (“STA”) to test and evaluate a temporary C-band satellite transmit and receive earth station for a period of 30 days beginning on October 20, 2012 and continuing until November 19, 2012.¹ (Because this application requests STA for 30 days, and an application for permanent authority is not contemplated, Public Notice prior to grant is not required).² For the reasons set forth below, FCC approval of this application will serve the public interest, convenience and necessity.

SOSCO seeks STA in order to test and evaluate a temporary fixed earth station facility. Specifically, SOSCO intends to perform several 24-hour bit error rate tests of a new satellite earth station to determine impacts on system stability resulting from RF noise, interference, distortion and/or bit synchronization errors. SOSCO proposes to conduct these tests via communications from a facility in Concord, California owned and operated by Cobham Plc, a leading aerospace and defense contractor, and the U.S. licensed SES-1 spacecraft located at 87°W. SOSCO anticipates that it will conduct several sets of tests, none of which will last longer than three consecutive days.

The Commission has a long-standing policy of granting STA where such authorization will serve the public interest, convenience and necessity, and does not cause harmful interference.³ The instant request meets both of these standards. Specifically, approval of this request for STA will allow SOSCO to test and evaluate the performance capabilities of a new satellite earth station facility that could (pending the results of its tests) greatly improve its ability to serve the public. To avoid harmful interference, SOSCO prior coordinated its proposed frequency use, and received no objections to its planned operations. Finally, a RF Hazard has been completed for the proposed facility.

For the foregoing reasons, SOSCO respectfully submits that favorable action on this request for STA will serve the public interest and will not prejudice any party. Accordingly, approval of this application is warranted.

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 25.120.

² 47 C.F.R. § 25.120(b)(4)

³ *See, e.g.*, Columbia Communications Corp., 11 FCC Rcd 8639, 8640 (1996); Newcomb Communications, Inc., 8 FCC Rcd 3631, 3633 (1993); American Telephone & Tel. Co., 8 FCC Rcd 8742 (1993).