

## Request for Special Temporary Authority

O3b Limited (“O3b”), pursuant to Section 25.120 of the Commission’s rules,<sup>1</sup> hereby requests special temporary authority (“STA”) to operate its gateway earth station located in Vernon, Texas (the “Vernon Earth Station”). O3b seeks an STA term covering the 60-day period between June 20, 2013, and August 19, 2013. O3b proposes to operate the Vernon Earth Station during this term in accordance with the parameters specified in the company’s pending license application (the “Vernon Application”).<sup>2</sup>

O3b’s STA request is supported by good cause. The first four of the space stations comprising O3b’s non-geostationary orbit (“NGSO”) Fixed-Satellite Service (“FSS”) Ka-band system are scheduled to be launched later this month.<sup>3</sup> Grant of O3b’s STA request will provide O3b with the authority needed to use its Vernon Earth Station to support launch operations. In particular, an STA will enable O3b to use the Vernon Earth Station to track O3b’s space stations if communication with O3b’s other gateway earth stations is lost.

O3b’s proposed operations pose no risk of harmful interference; O3b demonstrated in its Vernon Application that it will provide the requisite protection to terrestrial stations and geostationary orbit FSS stations operating in bands shared with O3b. The showing O3b made in the Vernon Application, moreover, is comparable to the showing it made in its application, which has been granted, for a license to operate a gateway earth station in Haleiwa, Hawaii.<sup>4</sup> In any event, operations under the STA for the Vernon Earth Station will be on a secondary, non-harmful interference basis.

The International Bureau already has recognized that facilitating integration of the Vernon Earth Station into O3b’s system is in the public interest. The Bureau previously granted an STA authorizing O3b to conduct antenna pattern verification, RF chain performance verification, and other tests of the Vernon Earth Station to establish performance standards and to resolve any issues in preparation for the launch of O3b’s NGSO FSS service.<sup>5</sup> An STA to operate the Vernon Earth Station will enable O3b to build upon the progress made possible by the previously-granted STA.

Accordingly, and for good cause shown, O3b respectfully requests that its STA be granted.

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<sup>1</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 25.120.

<sup>2</sup> See FCC File No. SES-LIC-20130124-00089. The Commission’s rules state that STAs granted for up to 60 days need not be placed on public notice if, as is true here, there is an underlying application for regular authority. See 47 C.F.R. § 25.120(b)(3).

<sup>3</sup> The launch is scheduled for June 24, 2013. O3b seeks a start date for its STA of June 20 to ensure there is adequate time to integrate the Vernon Earth Station into its launch support plan.

<sup>4</sup> See FCC File No. SES-LIC-20100723-00952 (granted September 25, 2012).

<sup>5</sup> See FCC File No. SES-STA-20130522-00441 (granted for a term beginning on June 4, 2013).