

## **Request for Special Temporary Authority**

Stratos Offshore Services Company (“Stratos”) requests special temporary authority (“STA”) to operate a Seatel 9797 ESV antenna in the 3.7-4.2 GHz and 5.925-6.425 GHz bands on the Chevron Jack St. Malo, a U.S.-flagged floating offshore drilling and production platform located in the Gulf of Mexico. The platform will be located more than 200 km from the baseline of the United States, and coordination has been completed to ensure that any U.S.-licensed fixed service offshore installations within 200 km of the oil platform site will be adequately protected. Included in this submission is a coordination report showing that there are no fixed service sites within 200 km of the area of operations of this ESV antenna location that will be affected by the proposed operations.

Stratos requests authority commencing on December 1, 2013 for a period of 60 days. Stratos has pending an application to modify license call sign E980235 seeking full authority for Seatel 9797 C-Band ESV antenna, along with the coordination notification for this deployment site. That application contains all of the relevant technical parameters and showings required by Section 25.221. The proposed ESV antenna operations comply with Section 25.221 of the Commission’s rules.

The Jack St. Malo deepwater drilling and production platform is a newly constructed vessel which will be towed from its current location in a shipyard near Corpus Christi, Texas, to its final location in international waters in the Gulf of Mexico. Towing of the platform will commence on or about November 18, 2013, and deployment at the operational location is expected on December 1, 2013. During the pre-deployment testing at the dock and during the tow to the final operational location, the Jack St. Malo will use a Ku Band VSAT antenna licensed under Stratos’s ESV license call sign E070114 for telemetry control and tracking of the vessel’s operations, as well as data communications.

However, Stratos and its customer have determined that Ku Band communications, which may be susceptible to rain fade outages in the harsh weather conditions present in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico region, do not provide a sufficient level of reliability for the telemetry, tracking and data communications from the vessel once it reaches its ultimate location. C Band operations, on the other hand, offer greater reliability than Ku Band operations in such an operating environment. The telemetry, tracking and data communications are critical for the safety of personnel and for reliable equipment control and environmental monitoring. Because the timing of deployment of the vessel coincides with hurricane season, there is greater risk of harsh weather conditions, and expedited authority for C Band operations is needed while the full license application is pending. Therefore, grant of the STA will facilitate safety and emergency communications upon the vessel’s arrival at the operational location. Thus, an STA is warranted and in the public interest in this case.

Because the proposed STA operations conform to the parameters in Section 25.221 for routine ESV operations and have been fully coordinated, any adjacent operations will be fully protected. Nevertheless, Stratos will make available a 24/7 point of contact in the event that any issues arise in connection with the operations under the requested STA. Personnel will be on duty at all times during the STA period and can be contacted at (800) 375-1562.