

Exhibit A

I. PETITION FOR WAIVER OF SECTIONS 25.137 AND 25.114

Pursuant to Section 25.137 of the Federal Communications Commission's ("Commission" or "FCC") rules, earth station applicants "requesting authority to operate with a non-U.S. licensed space station *to serve the United States*" must demonstrate that effective competitive opportunities exist and must provide the same technical information required by Section 25.114 for U.S.-licensed space stations.¹ Intelsat License LLC ("Intelsat") herein seeks authority to provide launch and early orbit phase ("LEOP") services -- not commercial services -- to the United States, and thus believes that Section 25.137 does not apply.²

To the extent the Commission determines, however, that Intelsat's request for authority to provide LEOP services on a special temporary basis is a request to serve the United States with a non U.S.-licensed satellite, Intelsat respectfully requests a waiver of Sections 25.137 and 25.114 of the Commission's rules.³ The Commission may grant a waiver for good cause shown.⁴ The Commission typically grants a waiver where the particular facts make strict compliance inconsistent with the public interest.⁵ In granting a waiver, the Commission may take into account considerations of hardship, equity, or more effective implementation of overall policy on an individual basis.⁶ Waiver is therefore appropriate if special circumstances warrant a deviation from the general rule, and such a deviation will serve the public interest.

In this case, good cause exists for a waiver of both Section 25.137 and Section 25.114. With respect to Section 25.114, Intelsat seeks authority only to provide LEOP services for the Optus-10 satellite. The information sought by Section 25.114 is not relevant to LEOP services. Moreover, Intelsat does not have—and would not easily be able to obtain—such information because Intelsat is not the operator of the Optus-10 satellite, nor is Intelsat in contractual privity with that operator. Rather, an affiliate of Intelsat has a contract with Space Systems/Loral, the manufacturer of the Optus-10 satellite, to conduct LEOP services for the satellite.

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 25.137 (emphasis added).

² See *EchoStar Satellite Operating Company Application for Special Temporary Authority Related to Moving the EchoStar 6 Satellite from the 77° W.L. Orbital Location to the 96.2° W.L. Orbital Location, and to Operate at the 96.2° W.L. Orbital Location*, DA 13-593, File No. SAT-STA-20130220-00023 (released Apr. 1, 2013) (noting that operating TT&C earth stations in the United States with a foreign-licensed satellite does not constitute "DBS service").

³ 47 C.F.R. §§ 25.137 and 25.114.

⁴ 47 C.F.R. § 1.3.

⁵ *N.E. Cellular Tel. Co. v. FCC*, 897 F.2d 1164, 1166 (D.C. Cir. 1990) ("*Northeast Cellular*").

⁶ *WAIT Radio v. FCC*, 418 F.2d 1153, 1159 (D.C. Cir. 1969); *Northeast Cellular*, 897 F.2d at 1166.

The information that Intelsat is not including is not required to determine potential harmful interference. The Schedule S information for this satellite would pertain to the operation of the Optus-10 satellite at its final orbital location. However, the present application for LEOP services involves communications *prior* to the satellite attaining its final location in the geostationary orbit. In other words, during the LEOP mission, the earth station will not be communicating with a satellite located in the geostationary orbit. Rather, it will be transmitting to a satellite traveling on its “transfer orbit” or “LEOP path,” which starts immediately following its separation from a launch vehicle, and ends when the satellite reaches its geostationary orbital location. Moreover, as with any STA, Intelsat will perform the LEOP services on a non-interference basis.

Because it is not relevant to the service for which Intelsat seeks authorization, and because obtaining the information would be a hardship, Intelsat seeks a waiver of all the information required by Section 25.114. Intelsat has provided in this STA request the required technical information that is relevant to the LEOP services for which Intelsat seeks authorization.

Good cause also exists to waive Section 25.137. Section 25.137 is designed to ensure that “U.S.-licensed satellite systems have effective competitive opportunities to provide analogous services” in other countries. Here, there is no service being provided by the satellite; it is simply being placed in its orbital location after separating from the launch vehicle. Thus, the purpose of the information required by Section 25.137 is not implicated here. For example, Section 25.137(d) requires earth station applicants requesting authority to operate with a non-U.S.-licensed space station that is not in orbit and operating to post a bond.⁷ The underlying purpose in having to post a bond—*i.e.*, to prevent warehousing of orbital locations by operators seeking to serve the United States—would not be served by requiring Intelsat to post a bond in order to provide approximately ten days of LEOP services to the Optus-10 satellite.

It is Intelsat’s understanding that Optus-10 is licensed by Australia, which is a WTO-member country. Thus, the purposes of Section 25.137—to ensure that U.S. satellite operators enjoy “effective competitive opportunities” to serve foreign markets and to prevent warehousing of orbital locations serving the United States—will not be undermined by grant of this waiver request.

Finally, Intelsat notes that it expects to operate with the Optus-10 satellite using its U.S. earth station for a period of approximately ten days. Requiring Intelsat to obtain copious technical and legal information from an unrelated party, where there is no risk of harmful interference and the operations will cease after approximately ten days, would pose undue hardship without serving underlying policy objectives. Given these particular facts, the waiver sought herein is plainly appropriate.

⁷ See 47 C.F.R. §25.137(d)(4).

II. REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF THE U. S. TABLE OF FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS

In the U.S. Table of Frequency Allocations, the 12200-12700 MHz band is allocated to Fixed, Mobile (except aeronautical mobile), Broadcasting, and Broadcasting-Satellite, each on a co-primary basis.⁸ Intelsat seeks a waiver of the U.S. Table of Frequency Allocations to allow temporary use of the downlink frequencies 12233.5 MHz, 12235.5 MHz and 12237.5 MHz for Fixed-Satellite Service (“FSS”) in Region 2.

The Commission may grant a waiver for good cause shown.⁹ The Commission typically grants a waiver where the particular facts make strict compliance inconsistent with the public interest.¹⁰ In granting a waiver, the Commission may take into account considerations of hardship, equity, or more effective implementation of overall policy on an individual basis.¹¹ Waiver is therefore appropriate if special circumstances warrant a deviation from the general rule, and such a deviation will serve the public interest.

Good cause exists for a waiver to allow Intelsat to conduct LEOP operations for the Optus-10 satellite using the 12233.5 MHz, 12235.5 MHz and 12237.5MHz frequencies. The TT&C frequencies on the satellite cannot be changed. As such, during the short period that the Optus-10 satellite passes over the United States during the LEOP mission, Intelsat must temporarily utilize these frequencies to obtain telemetry for the spacecraft. The Optus-10 satellite ultimately will be deployed to ITU Region 3 and its TT&C frequencies are in compliance with the ITU allocation for that region.

Intelsat’s temporary use of the 12233.5 MHz, 12235.5 MHz and 12237.5MHz frequencies will not unduly harm incumbent operations. Intelsat plans to use these frequencies solely for the Optus-10 LEOP operations, which it expects to last approximately ten days. Furthermore, the Optus-10 satellite will make a rapid ascent and will transition across the United States arc very quickly. Therefore, Intelsat believes that any interference it may cause to incumbent operations during the LEOP mission—to the extent there is any—will be very short term. For these reasons—and to ensure a safe LEOP mission for the Optus-10 satellite—the Commission should grant the waiver sought herein.

⁸ 47 C.F.R. § 2.106.

⁹ 47 C.F.R. §1.3.

¹⁰ *N.E. Cellular Tel. Co. v. FCC*, 897 F.2d 1164, 1166 (D.C. Cir. 1990) (“*Northeast Cellular*”).

¹¹ *WAIT Radio v. FCC*, 418 F.2d 1153, 1159 (D.C. Cir. 1969); *Northeast Cellular*, 897 F.2d at 1166.