

December 29, 2014

System Analysis Branch
Satellite Division
International Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Request for Special Temporary Authority

Dear Satellite Division Chief,

Pursuant to Section 25.120(a) of the Rules and Regulations (“Regulations”) of the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”), Harris CapRock Communications, Inc. (“Harris CapRock”) seeks Commission consideration for a Special Temporary Authority (“STA”) to operate new C-band Seatel 9797 2.4m and a new Ku-band Seatel 9711 Ku-band test antennas.

According to Section 25.120(b)(3) of the Regulations, the Commission may grant temporary authority for a period not to exceed 60 days, if the STA request has not been placed on public notice, and the applicant plans to file a request for regular authority for the service. In the instant case, the STA request has not been placed on public notice and Harris CapRock has filed an application for regular authority¹. Therefore, Harris CapRock respectfully requests an STA for a period not to exceed 60 days.

According to Section 25.120 (b)(1) of the Regulations, "The Commission may grant a temporary authorization only upon a finding that there are extraordinary circumstances requiring temporary operations in the public interest and that delay in the institution of these temporary operations would seriously prejudice the public interest."

In the instant case, Harris CapRock plans use the earth stations at issue in support of the cruise line industry. In particular, Harris CapRock will support the Carnival and Royal Caribbean International fleets of over 20 cruise ships each. The Seatel antennas will be used as test and burn in antennas before they are deployed to the cruise ships. As such the earth stations will provide lifeline communications to the crew as well as to passengers onboard such ships. The satellite links supported by these antennas will be used extensively by crew members that depend on it for their voice and data needs. Therefore, it is in the public interest that communications to the cruise ships operate expeditiously.

The current application plans to use the Intelsat 23 (53W) satellite for the C-band antenna and Telstar 11R (37.6W) for the Ku-band antenna.

In order to ensure timely communications to crew member of the platform, the requested date for prior use is January 5, 2015. In accordance to Section 25.120(a) of the Regulations, this STA is being filed at least 3 working days prior to the date of proposed operation.

Because of the nature of operations here described, it is in the public interest that the proposed test antennas be able to operate in order to accommodate the critical calls that are placed by cruise line personnel and passengers. In addition, should there be an emergency in the cruise ships; this earth station would be used to place calls to communicate with the appropriate agencies.

¹ See File Number: SES-LIC-20141221-00919.