



March 24, 2020

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Request for Further Extension of Special Temporary Authority
Ellenwood, Georgia Earth Station E170122**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Intelsat License LLC (“Intelsat”) herein requests an additional 30 days of Special Temporary Authority (“STA”)¹ previously granted to Intelsat² to use its Ellenwood, Georgia Ku-band earth station (Call Sign E170122) to provide launch and early orbit phase (“LEOP”) services for the BB4A satellite, which was launched on January 16, 2020.³ Intelsat now expects to provide LEOP services to the satellite until approximately June 30, 2020.

The LEOP operations will continue to be performed at the following frequencies: 11701.60 MHz (LHCP) and 11704.00 MHz (LHCP) in the downlink; and 14000.00 MHz (LHCP) and 14499.80 MHz (RHCP) in the uplink. The LEOP operations will continue to be coordinated with all operators of satellites that use the same frequency bands and are in the LEOP path.⁴ All operators of satellites in that path have been provided with an emergency phone number where the licensee can be reached in the event that harmful interference occurs.

The 24x7 contact information for the BB4A mission is as follows:

Ph.: (703) 559-7701 – East Coast Operations Center (primary)
(310) 525-5591 – West Coast Operations Center (back-up)

Request to speak with Harry Burnham or Kevin Bell.

¹ Intelsat has filed its STA request, FCC Form 159, a \$210.00 filing fee, and this supporting letter electronically via the International Bureau’s Filing System.

² See, e.g., *Satellite Communications Services Information; Actions Taken*, Report No. SES-02247, File No. SES-STA-20200210-00142 (Mar. 4, 2020) (Public Notice).

³ The in-orbit testing and final location for BB4A, which Intelsat understands is licensed by France, will be 14.0° E.L.

⁴ Thales Alenia Space (“Thales”), the manager of the BB4A mission, will handle the coordination.

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In further support of this request, Intelsat incorporates by reference Exhibit A of its original request,⁵ which contains waiver requests. In the extremely unlikely event that harmful interference should occur due to transmissions to or from its earth station, Intelsat will take all reasonable steps to eliminate the interference.

Intelsat clarifies that during the BB4A LEOP mission Thales will continue to serve as the mission manager. Thales builds and sends the commands to the Intelsat antenna, which processes and executes the commands. Telemetry received by Intelsat is forwarded to Thales. Intelsat performs the ranging sessions by sending a tone to the spacecraft periodically. Intelsat remains in control of the baseband unit, RF equipment, and antenna.

Grant of this further STA extension request will allow Intelsat to continue helping launch the BB4A satellite and safely inserting it into the geostationary arc. This will help provide services at the 14.0° E.L. location and thereby promotes the public interest.

For the reasons set forth herein, Intelsat respectfully requests that the Federal Communications Commission grant this further STA extension request. Please direct any questions regarding this request to the undersigned at (703) 559-6949.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Cynthia J. Grady
Cynthia J. Grady
Senior Counsel
Intelsat US LLC

cc: Paul Blais

⁵ See *Satellite Communications Services Information; Actions Taken*, Report No. SES-02235, File No. SES-STA-20200103-00016 (Jan. 22, 2020) (Public Notice).