



Request for Extension of Special Temporary Authority

Viasat, Inc. (“Viasat”) hereby requests extension, for an additional 180 days beginning September 1, 2021, of the special temporary authority (“STA”) previously granted to Viasat on March 20, 2021. See SES-STA-20200117-00055 (the “Initial STA”). The requested extension would serve the public interest by allowing Viasat to continue to support Astroscale’s “ELSA-d” mission.

The Initial STA permits Viasat to use its earth station at Pendergrass, Georgia, Call Sign E160161 (the “Station”) to provide telemetry, tracking, and control (“TT&C”) and related services to a “Client” satellite operated by Astroscale as part of its two-satellite ELSA-d constellation.¹ The authorized communications utilize designated S-band frequencies and emissions, in accordance with technical parameters described in the request for the Initial STA.

Viasat’s operations under extended STA would be consistent with those authorized technical parameters, which Viasat incorporates by reference. Furthermore, Astroscale has represented that its ELSA-d satellites would continue to operate in the manner previously described by Astroscale to the Commission in connection with the Initial STA.

Viasat notes that the Initial STA is limited to LEOP operations and support for three short-term demonstration phases consisting of 12 total days. These demonstration phases have not yet occurred, and Viasat understands that Astroscale plans to reschedule them for Q42021 following coordination with potentially impacted federal agencies.

In granting the Initial STA, the Commission recognized that the requested authority would facilitate Astroscale’s ability to test a potential solution for orbital debris removal—and thereby serve the public interest. Grant of the instant extension request would similarly serve the public interest and allow Viasat to support Astroscale through the end of the ELSA-d mission.²

¹ Denali 20020, LLC has separately requested STA to provide similar services to the other “Servicer” satellite. See IBFS No. SES-STA-20200113-00043 (filed Jan. 13, 2020). That request remains pending.

² Notably, in its underlying request Viasat explained that because the expected lifetime of the Astroscale spacecraft is 6 to 12 months, it might be necessary to renew the Initial STA to allow Viasat to support Astroscale for the life of the ELSA-d mission.