

STA Narrative Statement

RiteNet Corp. (“RiteNet”), pursuant to Section 25.120 of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. § 25.120, respectfully seeks a further 60-day special temporary authorization (“STA”), commencing on Wednesday, March 9, 2021, to operate a 2.4m fixed earth station in Mount Olotele, American Samoa to communicate with the JCSAT-2B satellite at 154°E in certain C-band frequencies. This STA application is submitted given the impending expiration of existing STA authority to ensure continuing authority to operate the earth station during the continued pendency of RiteNet’s underlying license application.¹

RiteNet’s earth station application (including supporting materials) is hereby incorporated by reference, was placed on public notice, came off public notice without comment, and awaits further Commission processing.² RiteNet has completed coordination of its proposed earth station operations, has operated the earth station under existing STA authority, and confirms that the operations have presented no interference issues with terrestrial licensees.³

Grant of this follow-on STA serves the public interest because it will enable RiteNet to continue to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (“FEMA”) Integrated Public Awareness Warning System (“IPAWS”).⁴ RiteNet, through its General Services Administration contract vehicle, supports IPAWS with critical satellite connectivity and earth station services.

¹ RiteNet Corp., File No. SES-STA-20211224-01956 (Call Sign E210430) (granted Jan. 7, 2022).

² RiteNet Corp., File No. SES-LIC-20211112-01809 (Call Sign E210430) (filed Nov. 12, 2021).

³ See *id.*, Section 1.65 Letter (filed Dec. 22, 2021) (notifying the Commission that RiteNet has completed coordination for the proposed operations).

⁴ IPAWS is FEMA's national system for local alerting that provides authenticated emergency and life-saving information to the U.S. public through mobile phones using Wireless Emergency Alerts and to radio and television via the Emergency Alert System. More information is available here:

<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/integrated-public-alert-warning-system>.

The earth station serves as a remote terminal for IPAWS as a part of FEMA's emergency broadcast network. RiteNet's earth station has been integrated into IPAWS for communication with U.S. Pacific territories to replace out-of-network facilities on which FEMA previously relied.

The earth station in American Samoa is interlinked with the national IPAWS network and communicates with a RiteNet earth station in Hawaii (which is the subject of a separate application) for emergency broadcasting, ensuring that Americans in remote Pacific locations are connected to the national emergency information system. Given this critical U.S. government mission, the advantages of integrating and upgrading associated facilities, and important public interest benefits, RiteNet respectfully requests the Commission grant the requested STA to maintain the U.S. government's emergency broadcast system capabilities until the underlying earth station license application can be granted.