

REQUEST FOR SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY

Pursuant to Commission rules,¹ SES Americom, Inc. (“SES”) requests Special Temporary Authority (“STA”) for 180 days, commencing January 1, 2025, to operate 250 Ka-band transmit/receive earth stations aboard aircraft (“ESAA”) terminals on domestic and international flights using the ThinKom KA2517 antenna and communicating with the SES-17 and AMC-15 satellites. SES filed an application on January 1, 2025, for the ESAA terminals to communicate with SES-17.² On January 22, 2025, SES filed an Amendment to that application to add communication to AMC-15, this Amendment remains pending.³ Expeditious grant of this STA will serve the public interest by allowing SES to offer in-flight services and will enhance competition in the important in-flight broadband market.

SES proposes to use the same frequencies on the same antenna and the same satellite as the Commission has previously authorized in the Thales ESAA License,⁴ receiving in the 17.8-18.8 GHz, 19.3-19.4 GHz, and 19.6-20.2 GHz bands and transmitting in the 29.3-30.0 GHz bands, as well as one additional spectrum band: the 28.35-28.6 GHz transmit band.⁵ SES’s planned operations with AMC-15 and SES-17 using these bands will conform to Commission requirements. US flagged aircraft equipped with the SES ESAA terminal will comply with FCC rules regardless of whether they are in US airspace. Non-US flagged aircraft equipped with the SES ESAA terminal will comply with FCC rules while in US airspace. For the reasons set forth herein, SES respectfully requests that the Commission expeditiously grant this request.

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 25.120.

² See Application of SES Americom, Inc., ICFS File No. SES-LIC-20250103-00021, filed Jan. 3, 2025.

³ See Application for Amendment of SES Americom, Inc., ICFS File No. SES-AMD-20250122-00080, filed Jan. 22, 2025 (This file was placed on the Accepted for Filing Public Notice on Feb. 1, 2025). The Commission also previously granted SES experimental authority for ESAA operations using the KA2517 terminal. See *Application of SES Americom, Inc.*, ICFS File No. 1428-EX-ST-2024, granted September 6, 2024.

⁴ See Application of Thales Avionics, Inc., ICFS File No. SES-LIC-20220520-00584, Technical Description at 3-5, 7-8, granted Jan. 9, 2023 (describing the ThinKom KA2517 antenna’s technical characteristics and providing performance data).

⁵ SES seeks to operate in all conventional Ka-band frequencies except the 29.25-29.3 GHz transmit segment. In addition, SES seeks to operate in four extended Ka-band receive segments – 17.7-17.8 GHz, 17.8-18.3 GHz, 19.3-19.4 GHz, and 19.6-19.7 GHz – in which ESIM operations are allowed on an unprotected basis. See 47 C.F.R. § 2.106, footnote NG527A. and 47 C.F.R. § 25.202(a)(10(i); see also *Amendment of Parts 2 and 25 of the Commission’s Rules to Facilitate the Use of Earth Stations in Motion Communicating with Geostationary Orbit Space Stations in Frequency Bands Allocated to the Fixed Satellite Service and Facilitating the Communications of Earth Stations in Motion with Non-Geostationary Orbit Space Stations*, Second Report and Order in IB Docket No. 17-95 and Report and Order in IB Docket No. 18-315 and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 35 FCC Rcd 5137, ¶¶13-15 (2020).