

## **REQUEST FOR SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY**

SpaceX Services, Inc. (“SpaceX”), pursuant to Section 25.120 of the Commission’s rules, hereby requests Special Temporary Authority (“STA”) for 60 days to receive at this gateway earth station in the 42.0–42.5 GHz band (space-to-Earth) from SpaceX’s authorized non-geostationary orbit (“NGSO”) second-generation (“Gen2”) satellites.<sup>1</sup> SpaceX requests this STA while the Commission continues to process SpaceX’s pending gateway earth station license application, which SpaceX will amend to include the 42.0–42.5 GHz band.<sup>2</sup> The Commission already authorized SpaceX to use the 42.0–42.5 GHz band for NGSO FSS downlink operations outside the United States,<sup>3</sup> and both SpaceX’s newest generation of satellites and current gateway architecture already support the band. Grant of this STA will enable communications between this gateway and new high-capacity v3 satellites designed to bring American consumers unprecedented fiber-like satellite broadband service.<sup>4</sup>

SpaceX respectfully requests grant of this STA before September 15, 2026 to accommodate upcoming launches of these new satellites.<sup>5</sup>

Grant of this STA is strongly in the public interest. Additional gateway downlink capacity in the 42.0–42.5 GHz band will improve Starlink backhaul capacity and increase internet speeds for Americans across the country. The band is a natural extension of the 37.5–42.0 GHz FSS (space-to-Earth) allocation already authorized by this gateway’s previously granted STA, and the Commission has proposed adding an FSS downlink allocation for the 42.0–42.5 GHz band in its *Spectrum Abundance* proceeding.<sup>6</sup> Because the U.S. Table of Frequency Allocations currently allocates 42.0–42.5 GHz only to the Fixed and Mobile services, SpaceX requests a waiver of Section 2.106, to the extent necessary, to operate on a non-interference, unprotected basis for the duration of the STA, and incorporates by reference the waiver showings in the pending application.<sup>7</sup>

SpaceX will operate with the technical parameters set forth in this STA application’s amended Schedule B. Downlink operations in 42.0–42.5 GHz in the United States will be the same as those the Commission approved for operations outside the United States and recently

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<sup>1</sup> See *Application for Modification of the SpaceX Gen2 NGSO Satellite System*, ICFS File No. SAT-MOD-20260703-00275 (filed July 6, 2026) (“Gen2 Ku/V Modification”); *Application of Space Exploration Holdings, LLC for Authority to Launch and Operate the SpaceX Gen3 NGSO Satellite System*, ICFS File No. SAT-LOA-20260630-00264 (filed July 6, 2026) (“Gen3 Application”).

<sup>2</sup> See *Application of SpaceX Services, Inc. for License to Operate a Gateway Earth Station in Phoenix, AZ*, ICFS File No. SES-LIC-20260601-01505 (filed June 1, 2026) (“Phoenix Application”).

<sup>3</sup> See *Gen2 Upgrade Authorization* at 4 (authorizing 42.0–42.5 GHz (space-to-Earth) “outside the U.S. only”).

<sup>4</sup> See *Starlink Version 3 Satellites*, STARLINK, <https://starlink.com/updates/starlink-version-3-satellites>.

<sup>5</sup> See *SpaceX Scales Back Plans for Next Starship Launch*, SPACENEWS (Aug. 21, 2026), <https://spacenews.com/spacex-scales-back-plans-for-next-starship-launch/>.

<sup>6</sup> See *Satellite Spectrum Abundance*, SB Docket No. 25-180, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 40 FCC Rcd 3794, 3811, ¶ 46 (2025).

<sup>7</sup> See Phoenix Application.

requested for use within the United States. SpaceX will operate consistent with the PFD limits authorized for the Gen2 system and applicable rules.<sup>8</sup>

SpaceX will operate under this STA on a non-interference basis. Nonetheless, in the extremely unlikely event that harmful interference should occur due to transmissions to or from its earth stations, SpaceX will take all reasonable steps to eliminate the interference. Should an issue arise, SpaceX can be reached at [satellite-operators-pager@spacex.com](mailto:satellite-operators-pager@spacex.com), which links to the pagers of appropriate technical personnel 24/7/365, or at (360) 780-3103.

Accordingly, SpaceX requests that the Commission expeditiously grant this STA to allow SpaceX to operate this quad-band gateway in the 42.0–42.5 GHz band (space-to-Earth) for 60 days while the Commission continues to consider this earth station’s associated application. SpaceX understands that Commission grant of these STAs does not prejudice the Commission’s further consideration of its application.

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<sup>8</sup> Gen2 Ku/V Modification, Technical Attachment at A-5 to A-6; *see also id.* at A-4 (PFD calculations in the requested V-band downlink beams “are the same as in the Gen2 Upgrade Applications”).