

December 31, 2019

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

Re: Request for Special Temporary Authority
Hagerstown, Maryland Earth Station KA258

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Intelsat License LLC (“Intelsat”) herein requests grant of Special Temporary Authority (“STA”)¹ for 30 days, commencing January 16, 2020, to use its Hagerstown, Maryland Ku-band earth station (Call Sign KA258) to provide launch and early orbit phase (“LEOP”) services for the BB4A satellite, which is expected to launch on January 16, 2020.² Intelsat expects to provide LEOP services to the satellite for approximately 30 days.

The LEOP operations will 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 be coordinated with all operators of satellites that use the same frequency bands and are in the LEOP path.³ All operators of satellites in that path will be 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 The in-orbit testing and final location for BB4A, which Intelsat understands is licensed by France, will be 14.0° E.L.

³ 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 herewith attaches Exhibit A, 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 serve as the mission manager. Thales will build and send the commands to the Intelsat antenna, which will process and execute the commands. Telemetry received by Intelsat will be forwarded to Thales. Intelsat will perform the ranging sessions by sending a tone to the spacecraft periodically. Intelsat will remain in control of the baseband unit, RF equipment, and antenna.

Grant of this STA request will allow Intelsat to help launch the BB4A satellite and safely insert 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 STA 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