

Description of Operations and Public Interest Statement

Pursuant to 47 CFR 25.120 of the Commission's Rules, Lockheed Martin Corporation ("Lockheed Martin") hereby requests Special Temporary Authority ("STA") for a period of thirty (30) days to operate its Carpentersville, New Jersey fixed earth station (Call Sign E7451) to provide telemetry, tracking, and control ("TT&C") functions during the post-launch and early orbit phases ("LEOP") of operation, ranging, and electronic propulsion monitoring for the JCSAT-17 satellite.

JCSAT-17 is destined for in-service operation at 136.0° E.L., and is currently scheduled for launch on February 18, 2020, aboard an Ariane 5 ECA rocket, designated VA252, from the Guiana Space Center. JCSAT-17, which was manufactured by Lockheed Martin, will be operated by Sky Perfect JSAT Corporation and is authorized by the administration of Japan.

1. Requested STA Operations

The TT&C and ranging signals will be transmitted in the standard Ku-band for which Lockheed Martin already has authority under Call Sign E7451. Accordingly, the instant request serves only to permit Lockheed Martin to communicate with JCSAT-17 as a point of communication not on the Commission's Permitted Space Station List and also to receive telemetry data on frequencies 12200.5 and 12201.0 MHz, which fall immediately outside of the currently authorized Ku-band receive frequencies for the earth station. In all other respects, operation of the earth station will be consistent with the parameters set forth under the existing permanent authority.

Lockheed Martin herein seeks authority to begin communications on February 16, 2020, in preparation for the launch.¹ Lockheed Martin is requesting that the duration of this STA be a total of thirty (30) days.

Lockheed Martin designates Michael Usarzewicz to be the contact person that will be available whenever transmission to, or reception from, JCSAT-17 is to occur through the subject earth station. Mr. Usarzewicz can be reached at the following phone numbers:

(609) 865-2658 (cellular)
(908) 859-4050 (earth station desk)

¹ The proposed test transmissions would occur over a period of approximately two to three days. During these tests, the earth station would not be communicating with any satellite; instead, the transmissions will be made with the antenna at zenith to verify RF functionality.

2. Grant of the Requested Authority Will Serve the Public Interest

Lockheed Martin believes that the limited operations it proposes in support of the launch of the JCSAT-17 satellite serve the public interest. Lockheed Martin understands that the JCSAT-17 satellite has been licensed by the Japanese administration to provide high-power video, broadband, and mobile communications services over Japan and neighboring regions for Sky Perfect JSAT Corp. of Tokyo.

Lockheed Martin's Carpentersville earth station will be part of a global network of control and ranging facilities that will be used solely to position the satellite as it progresses from transfer orbit to its final location and to calibrate electronic propulsion. No end user service will be provided within the United States at any time. The safe and orderly use of the entire geostationary orbital resource and protection of the hundreds of satellites licensed by the U.S. and other countries that operate there depends in no small part on ensuring that the JCSAT-17 satellite is controlled while over North America en route to its final geostationary orbital position. In this regard, Lockheed Martin's earth station thus will serve a vital function.

* * * * *

Lockheed Martin requests authority to operate its Carpentersville, NJ earth station antenna to provide critical TT&C services during the launch and early operations phase of the JCSAT-17 satellite, for a term of 30 days, commencing February 16, 2020.