

August 18, 2005

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

**Re: Request for Extension of Closing Deadline; IB Docket No. 03-115;
Transfer of Control of Satellite Earth Stations E000164 and KA-34;
File Nos. SES-T/C-20030418-00502, SES-T/C-20030418-00501**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pacific Telecom Inc. ("PTI") and Bell Atlantic New Zealand Holdings, Inc. ("BANZHI"), by their attorneys, respectfully request an additional 60 days—from August 27, 2005 through and including October 25, 2005—to complete the transfer of control of the above-referenced earth station licenses in the above-captioned docket. On November 6, 2003, the International Bureau, Wireline Competition Bureau, and Wireless Bureau authorized a transfer of control from BANZHI to PTI of certain licenses held by The Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation ("MTC") and its subsidiary GTE Pacifica Inc. ("GTE Pacifica").

Unfortunately, despite the ongoing diligent efforts of the parties, not all of the conditions to the closing of the transaction have yet been satisfied. Although the local regulatory authority in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth Telecommunications Commission, by order dated June 16, 2005 granted approval for the transfer of control of the local telecommunications license, that approval was made subject to a number of conditions precedent. Accordingly, the parties will not be in a position to close the transaction until the conditions precedent have been satisfied.

Pursuant to Section 25.119 of the Commission's rules, the earliest deadline for consummating this transaction was 60 days after authorization—January 5, 2004.¹

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 25.119. The 60-day deadline pertains to the two earth station licenses. A relevant deadline also applies for the wireless license. The initial deadline for consummation is 180 days after authorization, which was May 4, 2004. On subsequent occasions, the parties have requested additional time from the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau in which to consummate the transaction, most recently until October 26, 2005. See File Nos. 0001721117, 0001915450, 0002129983 (filed May 1, 2004, Oct. 27, 2004, and Apr. 19, 2005).



File# SES-T/C-20030418-00501

Call Sign KA34 Grant Date August 26, 2005
(or other identifier)

Term Dates

From August 27, 2005 To October 25, 2005

Approved: Jeanette D. Sprigg

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On January 5, 2004, the Commission granted PTI/BANZHI's request for an extension of the original deadline and set the new deadline at March 4, 2004.² On several subsequent occasions, PTI and BANZHI requested an additional 60 days in which to consummate the transaction, and most recently were granted an extension until August 26, 2005.³ At this time, PTI and BANZHI respectfully request an additional 60 days, until October 25, 2005, in which to consummate the transaction.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jennifer D. Hindin

Peter D. Shields
Jennifer D. Hindin
Wiley Rein & Fielding LLP
1776 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 719-7000
(202) 719-7049 Fax
Attorneys for Bell Atlantic
New Zealand Holdings, Inc.

/s/ Timothy J. Cooney

Kenneth D. Patrich
Timothy J. Cooney
Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP
2300 N Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20037
(202) 783-4141
(202) 783-5851 Fax
Attorneys for Pacific Telecom Inc.

cc: Cassandra Thomas, Acting Chief, Satellite Division
Jeanette Spriggs, Satellite Division

² Request for Extension of Closing Deadline; IB Docket No. 03-115; Transfer of Control of Satellite Earth Stations E000164 and KA-34; File Nos. SES-T/C-20030418-00502, SES-T/C-20030418-00501 (oral grant from Jeannette Spriggs, International Bureau, FCC to Jennifer Hindin, Counsel to BANZHI on January 5, 2004).

³ Requests for Extension of Closing Deadline; IB Docket No. 03-115; Transfer of Control of Satellite Earth Stations E000164 and KA-34; File Nos. SES-T/C-20030418-00502, SES-T/C-20030418-00501 (filed March 1, 2004, May 1, 2004, June 29, 2004, August 27, 2004, October 21, 2004, December 22, 2004, February 18, 2005, April 18, 2005, and June 21, 2005; June 21, 2005 request stamp granted by Jeannette Spriggs, International Bureau, on June 21, 2005).