

**Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20554**

|                                    |   |                                    |
|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>In the Matter of</b>            | ) |                                    |
|                                    | ) | <b>File No.: SES-T/C-2022_____</b> |
| <b>WorldVu Satellites Limited</b>  | ) |                                    |
|                                    | ) | <b>Call Sign: E180260, et al.</b>  |
| <b>APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF</b> | ) |                                    |
| <b>CONTROL</b>                     | ) |                                    |
|                                    | ) |                                    |

**APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF CONTROL**

WorldVu Satellites Limited (“OneWeb”), pursuant to Section 25.119 of the Commission’s (“FCC” or “Commission”) rules, 47 C.F.R. § 25.119, requests Commission consent to the transfer of control of earth station licenses associated with the planned acquisition of OneWeb Holdings Limited (the ultimate parent company of OneWeb) by Eutelsat Communications, S.A. (the “Transaction”). Details regarding the Transaction and its substantial public interest benefits are included in Attachment A, as well as in FCC Form 312 and Schedule A.<sup>1</sup>

OneWeb submits that consummation of the Transaction and transfer of control of its earth station licenses would serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity, and otherwise would be consistent with the Commission’s rules and policies. Therefore, OneWeb respectfully requests that the Commission expeditiously consent to the transfer of control of the subject earth station licenses.

\*\*\*\*\*

---

<sup>1</sup> See Attachment A, *Consolidated Description of Transaction and Public Interest Statement* at Exhibit A for a list of OneWeb’s earth station licenses and pending earth station applications. OneWeb respectfully requests that any disposition of this transfer of control application include authority for Eutelsat to acquire control of any authorizations issued to OneWeb while the Transaction is pending before the Commission. The Applicants plan to file a letter supplementing the record with respect to OneWeb’s pending applications, as necessary, to reflect the planned consummation of the Transaction. See 47 C.F.R. § 1.65.

## ATTACHMENT A

### CONSOLIDATED DESCRIPTION OF TRANSACTION AND PUBLIC INTEREST STATEMENT

OneWeb Holdings Limited and Eutelsat Communications S.A. (“Eutelsat”, and collectively, the “Applicants”) hereby request Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission”) consent to the transfer of control of earth station and experimental licenses held by OneWeb<sup>1</sup> in connection with the planned acquisition of OneWeb by Eutelsat (the “Transaction”).<sup>2</sup> OneWeb also notifies the Commission of this ownership change because it operates a foreign-licensed, non-geostationary orbit, fixed-satellite system (“NGSO FSS”) that has been granted U.S. market access.<sup>3</sup>

As explained below, consummation of the Transaction will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity by enhancing competition and operational efficiencies by combining Eutelsat’s robust capital structure and expansive GSO operational footprint with OneWeb’s innovative and expanding NGSO FSS network into a scaled, multi-orbit connectivity platform.

---

<sup>1</sup> “OneWeb” refers collectively to OneWeb Holdings Limited and its direct and indirect subsidiaries, including WorldVu Satellites Limited, the holder of several Commission licenses and market access grants. A full list of Commission authorizations held by OneWeb is included in Exhibit A-1. Organizational charts illustrating the pre- and post-closing ownership of OneWeb are included in Exhibit A-2.

<sup>2</sup> See 47 C.F.R. §§ 25.119(d), 5.79. As explained below, upon consummation of the Transaction, existing OneWeb shareholders (excluding Eutelsat S.A.) will own approximately fifty percent of Eutelsat. Accordingly, Eutelsat is concurrently filing a separate series of transfer of control applications associated with the Transaction (the “Eutelsat Applications”). The Applicants respectfully request the Eutelsat Applications be processed contemporaneously with the instant submissions.

<sup>3</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 25.137(g). Pursuant to guidance from Commission staff, this notification is being filed as a modification to OneWeb’s market access grants.

In addition, the proposed Transaction will have no material adverse impact on competition because OneWeb's NGSO FSS offerings primarily complement, rather than overlap with, Eutelsat's geostationary orbit ("GSO") satellite services. Thus, the Applicants request expeditious Commission consent for the Transaction.

## **I. THE PARTIES AND THE PROPOSED TRANSACTION**

OneWeb, founded in 2012 and headquartered in the United Kingdom, is a global satellite company at the forefront of the recent revolution in NGSO-based connectivity. OneWeb's petition for U.S. market access initiated the Commission's 2016 NGSO FSS processing round in the Ku- and Ka-bands.<sup>4</sup> OneWeb has designed and constructed an end-to-end satellite supply chain, including a state-of-the-art satellite manufacturing factory in Exploration Park, Florida, and multiple gateway earth station sites to support the more than 420 in-orbit and operational spacecraft launched since 2019.<sup>5</sup> The OneWeb network is already providing connectivity to unserved and underserved consumers in remote regions of the United States, such as Alaska.<sup>6</sup> OneWeb intends to launch more satellites beginning in Q4 of 2022 as it continues to deploy its

---

<sup>4</sup> See *OneWeb Petition Accepted for Filing; Cut-Off Established for Additional NGSO-Like Satellite Applications or Petitions in the 10.7-12.7 GHz, 14.0-14.5 GHz, 17.8-18.6 GHz, 18.8-19.3GHz, 27.5-28.35 GHz, 28.35-29.1 GHz, and 29.5-30.0 GHz Bands*, Public Notice, 31 FCC Rcd 7666 (IB 2016).

<sup>5</sup> See, e.g., Press Release, *OneWeb Confirms Successful Launch of 34 Satellites, Delivering Ongoing Momentum at the Start of 2022*, ONEWEB (Feb. 10, 2022), <https://oneweb.net/resources/oneweb-confirms-successful-launch-34-satellites-delivering-ongoing-momentum-start-2022>.

<sup>6</sup> See, e.g., Alan Burkitt-Gray, *Alaska Community First to Get Broadband via OneWeb Satellite*, CAPACITY (Oct. 22, 2021), <https://www.capacitymedia.com/article/29otdn0ylukn01phmg3k0/news/alaska-community-first-to-get-broadband-via-oneweb-satellite>.

Phase 1 constellation.<sup>7</sup>

Eutelsat, based in France, is one of the world’s leading GSO satellite operators serving customers across Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas. As demonstrated below, the proposed acquisition of OneWeb by Eutelsat will permit the companies to compete more effectively with space-based and terrestrial broadband connectivity providers, and to provide more diverse and efficient services to enterprise, government, and other customers in the United States and globally.

## **A. The Parties to the Transaction**

### **1. Eutelsat and Its Shareholders**

The legal qualifications of Eutelsat are a matter of record before the Commission. Eutelsat and its affiliates operate many GSO satellites that have been licensed by the Commission or granted U.S. market access, as well as multiple earth station facilities in the United States.<sup>8</sup> Eutelsat’s large fleet of GSO satellites serve broadcasters, video service

---

<sup>7</sup> OneWeb currently has parallel modification applications—in the Ku/Ka-band, as amended, and in the V-band—pending before the Commission seeking to reduce the number of satellites and modify the orbital architecture and inclination of OneWeb’s currently-authorized Phase 1 constellation. These applications also seek authority for additional satellites that will comprise OneWeb’s expanded, next-generation Phase 2 constellation. *See Modification Application of WorldVu Satellites Limited*, File No. SAT-MPL-20200526-00062, Call Sign S2963 (filed May 26, 2020) *as amended by Amendment to Modification Application for U.S. Market Access Grant for the OneWeb Ku- and Ka-Band System*, File No. SAT-APL-20210112-00007, Call Sign S2963 (filed Jan. 12, 2021); *Modification to OneWeb U.S. Market Access Grant for the OneWeb V-Band System*, File No. SAT-MPL-20211104-00144, Call Sign S2994 (filed Nov. 4, 2021).

<sup>8</sup> *See* ES 172 LLC, Call Sign S2610, File No. SAT-MOD-20210114-00008 (granted April 8, 2021) and Call Sign S3021, File No. SAT-RPL-20170927-00136 (granted April 25, 2018); Satelites Mexicanos, S.A. de C.V, Call Sign E160140, File No. SES-LIC-20160804-00720 (granted October 4, 2016); Satelites Mexicanos, S.A. de C.V, Call Sign S2695, File No. SAT-PPL-20060329-00030 (granted August 4, 2006); Call Sign S2873, File No. SAT-PPL-20120823-00140 (granted December 6, 2012); Call Sign S2926, File No. SAT-MOD-20161003-00096 (granted February 2, 2027); Call Sign S2938, File No. SAT-PPL-20150227-00008 (granted June 11, 2015); Eutelsat S.A., Call Sign S3031, File No. SAT-MPL-20180908-00068 (granted February 14, 2019), Call Sign S3055, File No. SAT-PDR-20191017-00115 (granted April 8,

providers, telecom operators, Internet service providers, government agencies, international organizations, and other customers. The ownership of Eutelsat and its qualifications to hold Commission authority have been repeatedly reviewed and approved by the Commission in the context of these filings.<sup>9</sup>

In connection with the planned Transaction, Eutelsat's sole 10% or greater shareholder, Bpifrance Participations' ("Bpifrance"), will have its ownership stake in Eutelsat reduced from approximately 23.38% to 11.69%. Bpifrance (formerly named Fonds Stratégique d'Investissement) is a *société anonyme* formed under the laws of France to enhance equity and help stabilize French companies during the 2008 economic crisis. Bpifrance is 100% indirectly owned by the French State, as approximately 50% of its share capital is held by the Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations, a French public sector banking institution, while the other approximately 50% of its share capital is held by the Établissement Public à Caractère Industriel et Commercial ("EPIC"), a public undertaking.

There are no other current shareholders with a 10% or greater ownership interest in Eutelsat. Accordingly, the Applicants do not separately identify them in the supporting materials associated with this submission. As with Bpifrance, all shareholders with less than 10% interests in Eutelsat will be diluted as a result of the Transaction.

## **2. OneWeb and Its Non-Eutelsat Shareholders**

The legal qualifications of OneWeb are a matter of record before the Commission. The Commission has consistently reviewed and approved OneWeb's qualifications to hold FCC

---

2020) and File No. SAT-MPL-20210209-00019 (pending); Call Sign S3056, File No. [SAT-PDR-20191017-00116](#) (granted April 8, 2020).

<sup>9</sup> See *id.*

authorizations. The Commission recently re-examined the qualifications of OneWeb and its shareholders to hold satellite and earth station authority when Eutelsat S.A. acquired its minority ownership interest in OneWeb.<sup>10</sup> The other OneWeb 10% or greater shareholders that will directly or indirectly hold 10% or more of the total equity interests in post-closing Eutelsat are: (i) Bharti Space Limited (“Bharti”); (ii) the United Kingdom’s Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (“BEIS”) representing the UK Government; and (iii) Softbank Group Capital Limited (“SoftBank”).

Bharti group is one of India’s leading conglomerates, with diversified interests in the telecommunications, insurance, real estate, hospitality, and technology sectors. Bharti Airtel Limited (“Bharti Airtel”) is the third largest mobile operator in the world, with over 490 million customers. One of Bharti Airtel’s subsidiaries, Bharti Airtel (USA) Ltd., is currently authorized to provide facilities-based and resale telecommunications services to the U.S. market pursuant to Section 214 authority.<sup>11</sup> Bharti, together with Bharti Global Limited, will own approximately 20.73% of Eutelsat upon consummation of the Transaction.<sup>12</sup>

The UK Government’s ownership in OneWeb is held through BEIS, the government department responsible for business, industrial strategy, science, innovation, and energy. BEIS’s

---

<sup>10</sup> See WorldVu Satellites Limited, Call Signs S2963, S2994, and E180620, File Nos. SES-T/C-20210610-00929, SAT-MPL-20210610-00077, and SAT-MPL-20210610-0007 (granted Aug. 11, 2021) (the “Eutelsat Approvals”). Eutelsat S.A. will maintain its shareholding in OneWeb.

<sup>11</sup> See *Public Policy Branch, Actions Taken*, Public Notice, Report No. TEL-01878, File No. ITC-214-20151230-00313 (Nov. 24, 2017).

<sup>12</sup> Each of the 10% or greater shareholders of post-closing Eutelsat identified herein, along with Hanwha Systems UK Limited (“Hanwha”) (an existing OneWeb shareholder), may purchase, until closing and by way of market purchases, up to 5% of Eutelsat’s share capital (calculated by reference to the number of shares in issue the day before announcement of the Transaction). The percentages noted herein may therefore change slightly to the extent this right is exercised.

responsibilities include developing and implementing comprehensive industrial strategy and the UK government's relationship with national enterprises, including ensuring the United Kingdom remains at the leading edge of telecommunications technologies and related innovation.

Through BEIS, the UK Government will own approximately 11.23% of post-closing Eutelsat upon consummation of the Transaction.

SoftBank group is a multinational conglomerate with its headquarters based in Tokyo, Japan. SoftBank group provides mobile and fixed-line services in Japan through SoftBank Corp., its telecommunications subsidiary. One of SoftBank group's subsidiaries, SB Telecom America Corp., is currently authorized to provide facilities-based and resale telecommunications services to the U.S. market pursuant to international Section 214 authority.<sup>13</sup> SoftBank group will own approximately 11.23% of Eutelsat upon consummation of the Transaction.

## **B. The Proposed Transaction**

Eutelsat S.A. currently holds 22.91% of OneWeb's class A ordinary share capital.<sup>14</sup> As part of the Transaction, Eutelsat will directly acquire 77.09% of the class A ordinary shares in the share capital of OneWeb (which comprises all of the class A ordinary shares in OneWeb except those held by Eutelsat S.A.), including 3.06% owned by various minority shareholders but excluding BEIS's "special share"<sup>15</sup> in OneWeb, in exchange for newly issued shares

---

<sup>13</sup> See *Public Policy Branch, Actions Taken*, Public Notice, Report No. TEL-00985, File Nos. ITC-214-19970307-00139, ITC-214-19970804-00461, and ITC-214-20040129-00035 (Jan. 19, 2006).

<sup>14</sup> See Eutelsat Approvals.

<sup>15</sup> HMG through BEIS holds a special share in OneWeb, which gives it certain governance and veto rights that, among other things, can restrict OneWeb's ability to: (i) relocate its headquarters from the United Kingdom; and (ii) make changes to its corporate structure or its technical and technology security standards.

representing a 50% equity interest in post-closing Eutelsat.<sup>16</sup> Taken together, upon consummation of the Transaction, Eutelsat will directly and indirectly (through Eutelsat S.A.) own 99.17% of the A ordinary shares of OneWeb.<sup>17</sup>

Information regarding the pre- and post-closing ownership of OneWeb is included in Exhibit A-2. Because the new ownership structure constitutes only a combination of two ownership/control groups that have been repeatedly reviewed and approved by the Commission (*i.e.*, those of Eutelsat and OneWeb), the Transaction raises no fundamental issues or concerns with respect to qualifications to hold Commission authorizations.

### **C. Commission Approval of the Transaction Would Serve the Public Interest**

To approve the proposed transfer of control of a license, the Commission must determine whether the transfer will serve “the public interest, convenience and necessity.”<sup>18</sup> In making such a determination, the Commission considers whether the proposed transferee is qualified to hold Commission authorizations. The Commission also evaluates the impact of the transaction on public interest objectives, including “preserving and enhancing competition in relevant markets, accelerating private sector deployment of advanced services, ensuring a diversity of license holdings, and generally managing the spectrum in the public interest.”<sup>19</sup>

---

<sup>16</sup> As noted above, the OneWeb/Eutelsat Applications are being filed contemporaneously with the instant filing. *See* n. 2, *supra*.

<sup>17</sup> Eutelsat’s aggregate ownership interest in OneWeb is diluted slightly to 99.17% despite Eutelsat and Eutelsat S.A. holding 100% of the A ordinary shares of OneWeb because Eutelsat S.A. is 3.62% owned by entities outside the Eutelsat Group.

<sup>18</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 310(d).

<sup>19</sup> *SkyTerra Communications, Inc., Transferor, and Harbinger Capital Partners Funds, Transferee, Applications for Consent to Transfer of Control of SkyTerra Subsidiary, LLC*, Memorandum Opinion and Order and Declaratory Ruling, 25 FCC Rcd 3059, ¶ 11 (IB, OET, & WTB, 2010).



For transactions affecting foreign-licensed satellites authorized to serve the United States via a grant of market access, the Commission procedures established in the *First Space Station Reform Order*<sup>20</sup> and set forth in Section 25.137(g) of the Commission’s rules<sup>21</sup> contemplate notification of consummation of a relevant transaction followed by Commission issuance of a public notice inviting comment that is limited to “whether the transaction affects any of the considerations made when the original satellite operator was allowed to enter the U.S. market.”<sup>22</sup>

As a threshold matter, the proposed transferee (post-closing Eutelsat, owned 50% by current Eutelsat shareholders and 50% by current OneWeb shareholders, excluding Eutelsat S.A.), would hold the necessary qualifications to control Commission authorizations and provide satellite services in the United States. The Commission previously considered and approved Eutelsat’s qualifications in the context of satellite license grants to ES 172 LLC<sup>23</sup> and U.S.

---

<sup>20</sup> *Amendment of the Commission’s Space Station Licensing Rules and Policies*, First Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 18 FCC Rcd 10760, ¶¶ 326-327 (2003) (“*First Space Station Reform Order*”).

<sup>21</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 25.137(g).

<sup>22</sup> *First Space Station Reform Order*, ¶ 326. Although this procedure does not require prior Commission review or approval of changes in ownership, the Applicants request that the Commission concurrently consider the change in ownership together with the transfer of control of its earth station licenses. The transfer of control of the satellite and earth station authority are integral parts of a single transaction and consolidated consideration would facilitate more efficient use of the Commission’s resources. The Applicants respectfully request a waiver of Section 25.137(g) of the Commission rules to the extent necessary to facilitate concurrent consideration.

<sup>23</sup> See ES 172 LLC, Call Sign S2610, File No. SAT-MOD-20210114-00008 (granted Apr. 8, 2021); and Call Sign S3021, File No. SAT-RPL-20170927-00136 (granted Apr. 25, 2018).

market access grants to Eutelsat S.A.<sup>24</sup> and Eutelsat Americas.<sup>25</sup> In October 2020, the Commission approved OneWeb’s emergence from Chapter 11 bankruptcy with an equity ownership group of BEIS, Bharti Global Limited, and SoftBank—all existing OneWeb shareholders that will obtain ownership interests in Eutelsat.<sup>26</sup> The Commission also authorized Eutelsat S.A. to acquire a minority interest in OneWeb, thereby also approving the qualifications of Eutelsat to exercise some negative control over OneWeb’s Commission authorizations.<sup>27</sup> Thus, there is no legal impediment to post-closing Eutelsat acquiring control of the authorizations held by OneWeb.

As discussed below, the Transaction would promote competition, otherwise benefit U.S. customers in furtherance of the public interest, and be consistent with the Communications Act. In addition, the Transaction does not affect the considerations made in the Commission’s original grants of U.S. market access to OneWeb or Eutelsat.

---

<sup>24</sup> See Eutelsat S.A., Call Sign S3031, File No. SAT-MPL-20180908-00068 (granted Feb. 14, 2019); Call Sign S3055, File No. SAT-PDR-20191017-00115 (granted Apr. 8, 2020); Call Sign S3056, File No. SAT-PDR-20191017-00116 (granted April 8, 2020); and File No. SAT-MPL-20210209-00019 (filed Feb. 9, 2021) (pending).

<sup>25</sup> See Satelites Mexicanos, S.A. de C.V., Call Sign S2695, File No. SAT-PPL-20060329-00030 (granted Aug. 4, 2006); Call Sign S2873, File No. SAT-PPL-20120823-00140 (granted Dec. 6, 2012); Call Sign S2926, File No. SAT-MOD-20161003-00096 (granted Feb. 2, 2027); Call Sign S2938, File No. SAT-PPL-20150227-00008 (granted June 11, 2015).

<sup>26</sup> See *Application for Assignment and Transfer of Control by WorldVu Satellites Limited*, IB Docket No. 20-290, IBFS File Nos. SES-ASG-20200818-00891, SAT-MPL-20200818-00099, and SAT-MPL-20200831-00101, DA 20-1271 (rel. Oct 27, 2020). Hanwha later made an equity investment in OneWeb in 2022.

<sup>27</sup> See Eutelsat Approvals, *supra* n. 7.

## **1. The Transaction Will Enhance Competition**

The Transaction will facilitate the Applicants' ability to satisfy growing demand for a wide variety of satellite broadband applications.<sup>28</sup> The GSO satellite services provided by Eutelsat primarily complement the NGSO FSS services offered by OneWeb and meet a variety of customer needs through use of different orbital configurations. Combining these innovative and complementary offerings will allow the companies to compete more effectively with other satellite and terrestrial broadband connectivity providers, ultimately benefitting U.S. consumers.

Eutelsat's GSO satellite services provide large amounts of capacity and are ideal for traditional satellite services, including video content distribution and communications backhaul across expansive geographic areas because each satellite can cover roughly one-third of the Earth's surface at any given time. However, the distance between the surface of the Earth and the GSO arc may impact time-sensitive applications, since latency may exceed 600ms. Therefore, Eutelsat's GSO satellite services are often used for one-way services, such as simultaneous audio and video content distribution over large geographic areas to cable headends or VSATs. Eutelsat's two-way satellite services, on the other hand, are often utilized by less latency-sensitive applications, such as data transmission, storage, and retrieval. These services also provide a cost-effective means by which customers that may otherwise lack terrestrial broadband can acquire connectivity.

---

<sup>28</sup> See, e.g., *Satellite Connectivity Market To Reach \$ 22.12 Billion, Globally, by 2031 at 7.3% CAGR: Allied Market Research*, YAHOO! (Aug. 11, 2022), <https://www.yahoo.com/now/satellite-connectivity-market-reach-22-033000372.html#:~:text=As%20per%20the%20report%2C%20the,7.3%25%20from%202022%20to%202031.>

OneWeb’s unparalleled high-bandwidth, low-latency architecture reduces transmission times substantially and enables OneWeb to provide innovative solutions to meet growing demands for high-throughput connectivity. As the Commission has recognized, lower latency “is essential for most network-based applications and critical for others, such as VoIP and other interactive and highly interactive applications.”<sup>29</sup>

These advantageous characteristics of the OneWeb system also help make it competitive with terrestrial-based networks. Thus, OneWeb is well-positioned to aggressively compete for commercial opportunities across several emerging market segments: fixed broadband, aeronautical, and maritime services. In addition, OneWeb’s global constellation can provide coverage in areas with limited service from GSO and terrestrial systems, including high latitude and polar regions. The NGSO-based connectivity network OneWeb is actively deploying is thus differentiated from Eutelsat’s traditional commercial offerings and the Transaction would allow each operator to access and leverage new capabilities and scale, thereby expanding the connectivity platforms available to their respective customers. Accordingly, the Transaction would enable the Applicants to offer a multi-orbit architecture capable of meeting increasing broadband connectivity demands across a multitude of industries and market segments.

The markets for GSO and NGSO satellite services are becoming increasingly competitive. Dozens of operators are currently providing services or planning to deploy new systems in the next several years. This expansion of the satellite industry across both GSO and

---

<sup>29</sup> *Connect America Fund*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WC Docket No. 10-90, 31 FCC Rcd 5949, ¶ 32 (2016); *see also Rural Digital Opportunity Fund*, Report and Order, WC Docket No. 19-126, 35 FCC Rcd 686, ¶ 41 (2020) (noting “the importance of latency to interactive, real-time applications and voice services”).

NGSO reduces the risk that the Transaction will eliminate competition from the market.<sup>30</sup>

Consummation of the Transaction would thus enhance the competitiveness of the Applicants in the robust marketplace for broadband services, which the Commission has determined to be a vital public interest objective.<sup>31</sup>

## **2. The Transaction Will Benefit U.S. Customers**

U.S. customers will realize significant benefits from the availability of complementary services and the enhanced financial position of the Applicants resulting from the Transaction. This, in turn, will make the Applicants more effective competitors in the U.S. broadband marketplace, particularly in underserved areas and in markets primarily served by a limited number of terrestrial providers.<sup>32</sup>

---

<sup>30</sup> See generally the Approved Space Station List, <https://www.fcc.gov/approved-space-station-list>; the Satellite Queue Report, <https://licensing.fcc.gov/myibfs/qReportExternal.do>.

<sup>31</sup> See *Statement of Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel*, Revising Spectrum Sharing Rules for Non-Geostationary Orbit, Fixed-Satellite Service Systems, IB Docket No. 21-456; Revision of Section 25.261 of the Commission's Rules to Increase Certainty in Spectrum Sharing Obligations Among Non-Geostationary Orbit Fixed-Satellite Service Systems, RM-11855 (rel. Dec. 15, 2021) ("Now a new space age beckons. It means more satellites, more possibilities for exploration, and more opportunities for entrepreneurial activity in our skies. Already we are seeing rockets for space tourism and new constellations that can expand broadband to the furthest reaches of the globe."); see also *Remarks of Chairman Ajit Pai at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Policy Roundtable* (July 9, 2019) ("[W]e now have in our sights new competition in the broadband marketplace and new opportunities for rural Americans who lack access to high-speed Internet access. That's why the FCC under my leadership has moved quickly to give a green light to satellite entrepreneurs like OneWeb. . .").

<sup>32</sup> See, e.g., *WorldVu Satellites Limited, Debtor-in-Possession, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Granting Access to the U.S. Market for the OneWeb Non-Geostationary Satellite Orbit Fixed-Satellite Service V-Band System*, Order and Declaratory Ruling, 35 FCC Rcd 10150, 10152, ¶ 6 (2020) ("[W]e conclude that granting OneWeb access to the U.S. market...would increase competition for the broadband services proposed to be provided by such systems to American consumers, particularly in underserved areas, offer a greater likelihood that such a large system is able to fulfill its ambitions and deploy the proposed services, and thereby serve the public interest"); see also Press Release, *FCC Authorizes Boeing Broadband Satellite Constellation*,

The Transaction will enhance competition in the markets for broadband connectivity and satellite services and will offer the benefits of such competition to consumers in the United States and around the world.<sup>33</sup> The resulting synergies of the combined OneWeb and Eutelsat networks will provide the scale necessary to facilitate more robust competition for standalone connectivity services while providing customers a unique opportunity to leverage the benefits of a hybrid satellite network service offering, including increased speed, lower latency, and greater capacity. Thus, the Transaction will result in more robust, affordable connectivity options for consumers.

In particular, OneWeb will benefit from Eutelsat's significant technical and operational expertise as well as its longstanding commercial relationships to enhance the provision of NGSO FSS services to enterprise, government, and other important markets. The Transaction will also provide OneWeb with access to the new capital structures necessary to facilitate the development and launch of its Phase 2 system,<sup>34</sup> while Eutelsat's subsidiaries will benefit from a new and innovative approach to providing connectivity that will increase the potential for GSO/NGSO compatibility and enhance the ability to support new broadband applications and develop new market opportunities.

The FCC has approved strategic transactions involving other satellite operators where

---

FCC (rel. Nov. 3, 2021) (Chairwoman Rosenworcel noting that "[a]dvanced satellite broadband services have an important role to play in connecting hard-to-serve communities").

<sup>33</sup> Although the Commission's review is primarily focused on the effects of proposed transactions in the United States, the substantial positive impacts of the Transaction will be realized globally and inure to the benefit of U.S.-licensed earth station in motion operators and other U.S.-based users of global satellite services.

<sup>34</sup> See *supra* n. 7.

such public interest benefits were identified.<sup>35</sup> These benefits are even more essential and meaningful in today's competitive satellite services marketplace, where strategic combinations have the potential to create transformative scale<sup>36</sup> and NGSO FSS operators must compete for each new market opportunity.

### **3. The Transaction Will Not Affect the Considerations Evaluated in Previous Commission Grants of U.S. Market Access**

The Commission has determined on multiple occasions that granting the Applicants' requests for U.S. market access is consistent with its rules and policies. This Transaction presents no new issues that would alter the Commission's previous conclusion that allowing the Applicants to serve the U.S. market would further the public interest.

Post-closing Eutelsat and its subsidiaries—including OneWeb—will continue to be regulated by their respective licensing administrations, which are all World Trade Organization members. As a result, the *DISCO II* presumption in favor of U.S. market access remains.<sup>37</sup> Furthermore, the Transaction will have no adverse effect on the satellite services or broadband

---

<sup>35</sup> See Consent to Transfer of Control from O3b Networks Limited to SES S.A., File Nos. SAT-T/C-20160502-00042 and SES-T/C-20160502-00378 (granted June 17, 2016).

<sup>36</sup> See Applications Filed for Transfer of Control of Inmarsat to Viasat, Inc., Public Notice, IB Docket No. 22-153, DA 22-517 (May 11, 2022) (noting that the applicants "contend that Viasat and Inmarsat have developed complementary businesses in a dynamic marketplace and that the combined company will be able to deliver more robust and innovative services"); see also *Satellite Operators SES and Intelsat in Merger Talks*, *Financial Times Reports*, REUTERS (Aug. 4, 2022), <https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/satellite-operators-ses-intelsat-merger-talks-ft-2022-08-04/>; *Major operator consolidation is a long time coming*, SPACE NEWS (Sept. 12, 2022), <https://spacenews.com/major-operator-consolidation-is-a-long-time-coming/>.

<sup>37</sup> *DISCO II Order*, ¶ 39 ("We adopt our proposal to apply a presumption in favor of entry in considering applications to access non-U.S. satellites licensed by WTO Members to provide services covered by the U.S. commitments under the WTO Basic Telecom Agreement. Specifically, we will presume that satellite systems licensed by WTO Members providing WTO covered services satisfy the competition component of the public interest analysis.").

connectivity market in the United States. Rather, the Transaction will bolster the companies' competitive position and their ability to continue offering both traditional and innovative new services to U.S. consumers.

Nor will Commission approval for the Transaction impact the previous *DISCO II* considerations involving national security, law enforcement, foreign policy, and trade. The Commission has noted that these issues are likely to arise only in "rare circumstances" and the Commission typically defers to the Executive Branch agencies in such matters.<sup>38</sup> To that end, the Applicants emphasize their extensive engagement with national security regulators and the Executive Branch agencies, both in the recent past and on an ongoing basis. Specifically, the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States ("CFIUS") previously approved Eutelsat's minority investment in OneWeb in August 2021. Notably, the Commission also approved Eutelsat's minority investment in OneWeb without referring the transaction to the Committee for the Assessment of Foreign Participation in the United States Telecommunications Services Sector ("Team Telecom").

The Applicants respectfully submit that similar treatment for the Transaction is warranted. As an initial matter, Eutelsat and OneWeb are contemporaneously filing a Joint Voluntary Notice with CFIUS and expect that CFIUS will address any national security issues in connection with its review of the Transaction, as necessary. Moreover, OneWeb is currently undergoing Team Telecom review in connection with certain pending applications.<sup>39</sup>

---

<sup>38</sup> *Id.*, ¶ 180 ("We emphasize, however, that we expect national security, law enforcement, foreign policy and trade policy concerns to be raised only in very rare circumstances. Contrary to the fears of some commenters, the scope of concerns that the Executive Branch will raise in the context of applications for earth station licenses is narrow and well defined.").

<sup>39</sup> *See Policy Branch Information, Accepted for Filing*, Public Notice, Report No. SAT-01618,



Information regarding the Transaction has already been submitted to the Executive Branch agencies in the context of this ongoing review. Therefore, any referral of the instant application to Team Telecom would be an inefficient use of resources and would create duplicative and unnecessary work for these agencies. The Applicants respectfully submit that such a referral would not be appropriate here and affirm that they will continue to work closely with both the Commission and Team Telecom to address any national security, law enforcement, foreign policy, or trade considerations arising from the Transaction.

## II. CONCLUSION

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Transaction would serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity, and otherwise would be consistent with the Commission's rules and policies. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the Commission expeditiously consent to the transfer of control of the subject authorizations.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian D. Weimer  
Douglas A. Svor  
Jodi A. Goldberg



Carlos Nalda

---

File Nos. SAT-MPL-20200526-00062 & SAT-APL-20210112-00007 (Mar. 18, 2022) ("This petition, as amended, is being referred to the relevant Executive Branch agencies for their views on any national security, law enforcement, foreign policy or trade policy concerns related to the potential for routing of U.S. traffic outside the United States through inter-satellite links without the use of a gateway earth station located in the United States"); *see also* Letter from Megan K. Fluckiger, Attorney Advisor, Foreign Investment Review Section National Security Division U.S. Department of Justice to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, File Nos. SAT-MPL-20200526-00062 & SAT-APL-20210112-00007 (Mar. 25, 2022).

Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP  
2099 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 747-1930  
[bweimer@sheppardmullin.com](mailto:bweimer@sheppardmullin.com)  
[dsvor@sheppardmullin.com](mailto:dsvor@sheppardmullin.com)  
*Counsel for OneWeb*

LMI Advisors, LLC  
2550 M Street NW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20037  
[cnalda@lmiadvisors.com](mailto:cnalda@lmiadvisors.com)  
(571) 332-5626  
*for Eutelsat Communications, S.A.*

September 21, 2022

**EXHIBIT A-1 – ONEWEB FCC AUTHORIZATIONS\***

| <b><u>Call Sign</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b><u>OET/IBFS File Number</u></b>                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SPACE STATION AUTHORIZATIONS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                            |
| S2963                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | SAT-LOI-20160428-00041<br>SAT-MPL-20200526-00062<br>SAT-APL-20210112-00007 |
| S2994                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | SAT-LOI-20170301-00031                                                     |
| <b>EARTH STATION LICENSES</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                            |
| E180620                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | SES-LIC-20180604-01082                                                     |
| E181293                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | SES-LIC-20180727-02075                                                     |
| E181294                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | SES-LIC-20180727-02076                                                     |
| E190727                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | SES-LIC-20190930-01217                                                     |
| E190759                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | SES-LIC-20190930-01237                                                     |
| E190236                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | SES-LIC-20190422-00538                                                     |
| <b>OET EXPERIMENTAL LICENSES</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                            |
| WK2XBY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 0015-EX-TU-2021                                                            |
| WK2XGK                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 0155-EX-CM-2021                                                            |
| <b>PENDING APPLICATIONS**</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                            |
| E220022                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | SES-LIC-20220131-00111                                                     |
| E220044                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | SES-LIC-20220405-00360                                                     |
| E220121                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | SES-LIC-20220801-00883                                                     |
| S2963                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | SAT-MPL-20200526-00062<br>SAT-APL-20210112-00007                           |
| S2994                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | SAT-MPL-20211104-00144                                                     |
| <p>*The Applicants plan to file a letter supplementing the record with respect to OneWeb's pending applications, as necessary, to reflect the planned consummation of the Transaction. <i>See</i> 47 C.F.R. § 1.65.</p> <p>**The Applicants respectfully request that any disposition of the Applications include authority for Eutelsat to acquire control of any authorizations issued to OneWeb while the Transaction is pending before the Commission.</p> |                                                                            |

## **Exhibit A-2**

### **Post-Closing Ownership and Control**

The proposed ownership and control of One Web Holdings Limited (“OneWeb”), which will become a wholly owned subsidiary of Eutelsat Communications S.A. (“Eutelsat”) in connection with the proposed transaction, is set forth below. The board of directors of post-closing Eutelsat is included in Table 1, and ownership charts detailing OneWeb’s pre- and post-closing organizational structure are included in Figures 1 and 2.

Upon consummation of the proposed transaction, OneWeb’s parent, Eutelsat, will have the following 10% or greater shareholders:

#### **Bharti Space Limited/Bharti Global Limited**

*Address:* 53/54 Grosvenor Street, 2nd Floor, London, United Kingdom, W1K 3HU

*Place of Organization:* United Kingdom and Jersey, respectively

*Interest Held:* 20.73% (combined)

#### **BPIfrance Participations**

*Address:* 27-31, avenue du Général Leclerc, 94710 Maisons-Alfort Cedex, France

*Place of Organization:* France

*Interest Held:* 11.69%

#### **The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy**

*Address:* 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET, United Kingdom

*Place of Organization:* United Kingdom

*Interest Held:* 11.23%

#### **SoftBank Group Capital Limited**

*Address:* 69 Grosvenor Street, London, United Kingdom, W1K 3JP

*Place of Organization:* United Kingdom

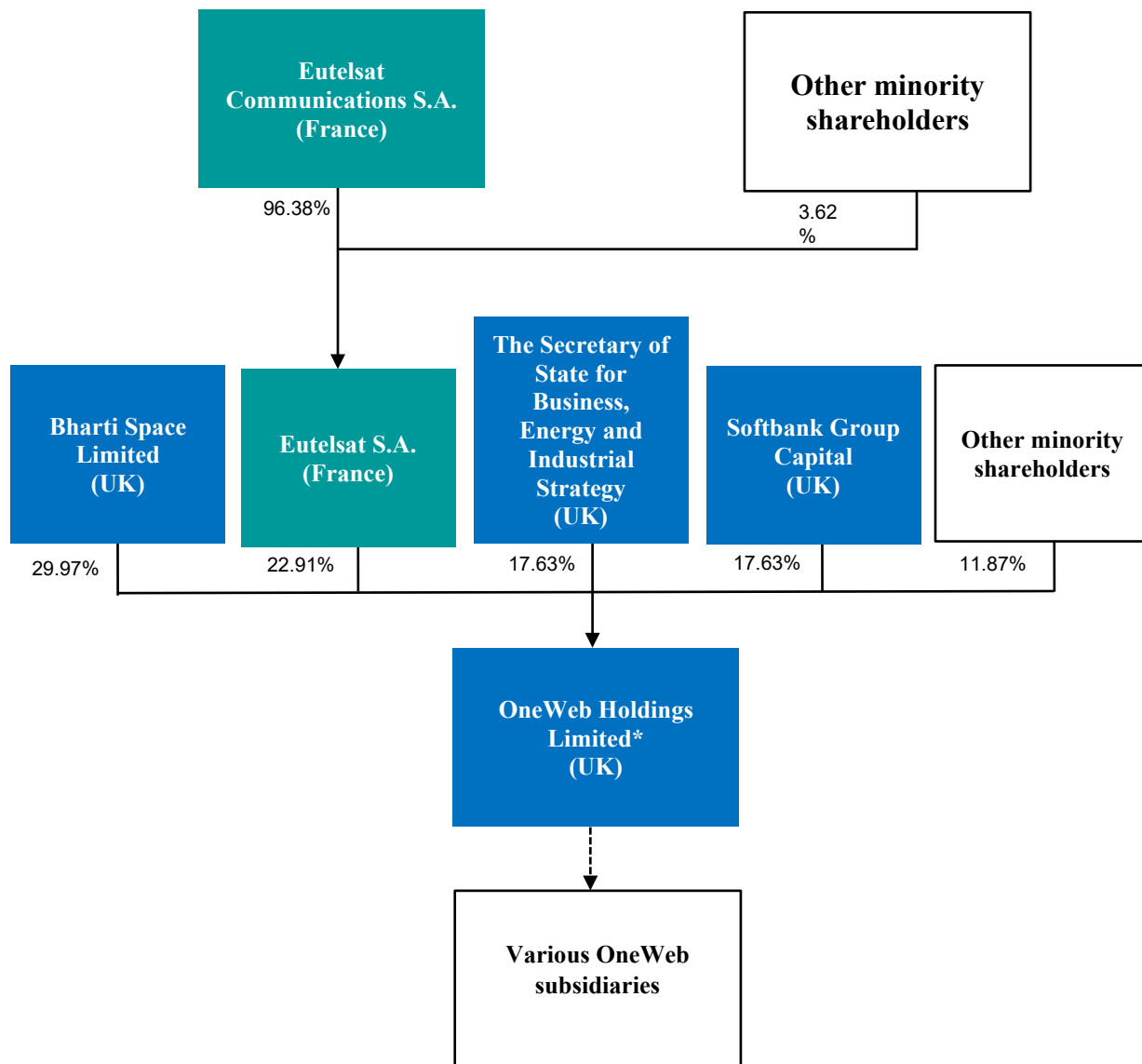
*Interest Held:* 11.23%

Upon consummation of the proposed transaction, the board of directors of Eutelsat will be composed as follows:

| <b>Directors and Position/Representation</b> |                                       |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Chairman                                     | Chairman of Eutelsat (Eutelsat)       |
| Co-Chairman                                  | Executive Chairman of OneWeb (Bharti) |
| 4 Directors                                  | Eutelsat                              |
| 2 Directors                                  | OneWeb                                |
| 1 Director                                   | Bharti                                |
| 1 Director                                   | Bpifrance                             |
| 1 Director                                   | UK Government                         |
| 1 Director                                   | CEO of Eutelsat (Eutelsat)            |
| 2 Directors                                  | Other Shareholders                    |

**Table 1. Post-Closing Eutelsat Board of Directors**

**Figure 1: OneWeb Pre-Closing Ownership Structure Chart**



\* The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (UK) has 1 B ordinary share in OneWeb Holdings Limited.

Shareholding percentages calculated by reference to A Ordinary Shares held.

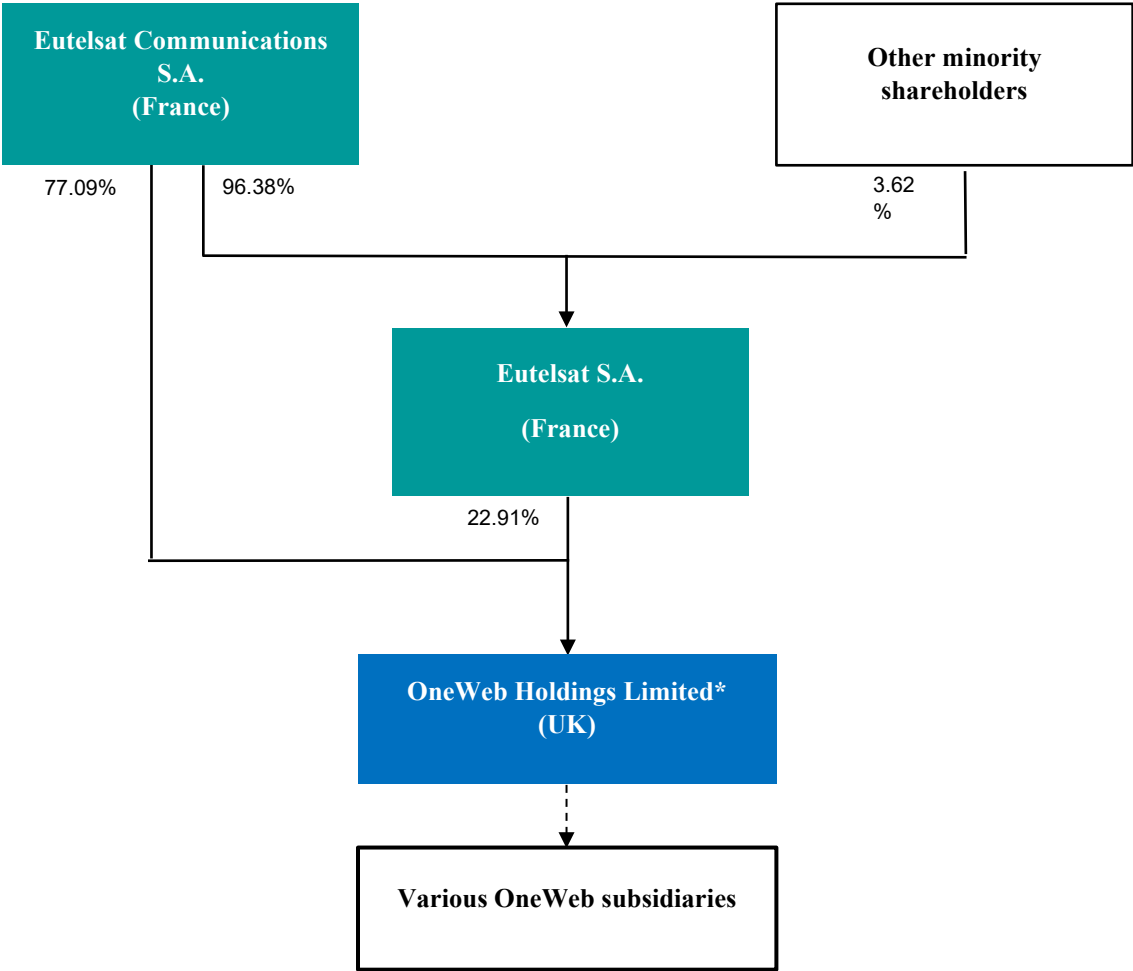
**KEY:**

UK entity

France entity

Share ownership percentages reflect proportionate shareholder voting rights.

Figure 2: OneWeb Post-Closing Ownership Structure Chart



\* The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (UK) will retain 1 B ordinary share in OneWeb Holdings Limited.

Shareholding percentages calculated by reference to A Ordinary Shares held.

**KEY:**

UK entity

France entity

Share ownership percentages reflect proportionate shareholder voting rights.