

Before The
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of)
)
Preparation for 2007 World)
Radiocommunication Conference)
)
Preliminary Views of WRC-07)
Advisory Committee)

To: Alexander Roytblat
FCC WRC-07 Director

COMMENTS OF GLOBALSTAR LLC

Pursuant to Public Notice DA 04-1698 (released June 14, 2004) and the Commission's request for comments on the preliminary views of the WRC-07 Advisory Committee, Globalstar LLC provides the following comments on the Draft Preliminary Views for Agenda Item 1.6.

Agenda Item 1.6 concerns the identification of spectrum that "could, compatibly with current allocations and uses, support additional applications that could be used for aviation-related services" to allow for modernization and support for International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Communication, Navigation & Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) systems. The National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA) notes that one part of the studies for Agenda Item 1.6 is to consider "how to accommodate the requirements for aeronautical systems in the band 5091-5150 MHz."

Globalstar is the parent of companies that hold authorizations for a “Big LEO” Mobile-Satellite Service (“MSS”) space station constellation operating in the 1.6/2.4 GHz bands and associated earth stations, both fixed gateway stations and mobile earth terminals.¹ Globalstar’s subsidiaries, Globalstar USA LLC and Globalstar Caribbean Ltd., hold fixed earth station licenses for delivery of Globalstar services in the North American and Caribbean regions. Globalstar’s terrestrial network uses the 5091-5250 MHz band as feeder links (Earth-to-space) for communications between the gateway earth stations and the satellites.²

At the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference, the United States supported, and the ITU adopted, changes to the existing allocation for nongeostationary (NGSO) MSS feederlinks in the 5091-5150 MHz band, including:

- Extension from January 1, 2010 to January 1, 2018 of the date after which MSS feeder links become secondary to aeronautical radionavigation systems (ARNS) operating in the band;
- Extension from January 1, 2010 to January 1, 2018 of the time for the applicability of Resolution 114 (WRC-95) to the use of the band for NGSO MSS feederlinks;
- Modification of Resolution 114 to account for the introduction of new aeronautical uses in the future;
- Extension from January 1, 2008 to January 1, 2012 of the date after which no new assignments may be made for MSS feeder links in this band; and,

¹ New Operating Globalstar LLC, the successor to Globalstar, L.P. and L/Q Licensee, Inc., has changed its name to “Globalstar LLC.” See Public Notice, DA 04-628 (released March 8, 2004).

² See L/Q Licensee, Inc., 11 FCC Rcd 16410 (Int’l Bur. & OET 1996).

- Extension from January 1, 2010 to January 1, 2018 of the end date for application of the requirement that international standard systems for ARNS that cannot be met in the band 5000-5091 MHz shall take precedence over other uses in the band.³

Given these U.S.-supported changes for use of the band 5091-5150 MHz, studies of the use of the 5091-5150 MHz band for terrestrial radionavigation systems should take into account the continuing primary use of the band by NGSO MSS feederlinks. Any new terrestrial systems introduced into the 5091-5150 MHz band must be required to protect the operation of authorized NGSO MSS feederlinks for the time period that NGSO MSS feederlinks remain primary in the band.

Moreover, as Globalstar has explained to the Commission, it is developing an aviation service that would operate in the 1.6/2.4 GHz band that could provide CNS/ATM services as well as cockpit and cabin communications. Indeed, the WRC-07 Advisory Committee recognizes that “[t]he use of satellite-based facilities in connection with civil aviation applications . . . will contribute to the overall improvement of the communications infrastructure in developing countries and remote areas and allow ready access to Internet based services.” *Draft Preliminary Views on WRC-07, Agenda Item 1.6, U.S. Views 2.*

Because commercial satellite systems will be providing aviation services that could be used for CNS/ATM services, and NTIA is attempting to promote the use of this band for CNS/ATM, the Commission may also want to study whether NGSO

³ RR 5.BD02, Final Acts, WRC-03.

MSS use of the 5091-5150 MHz band should not be relegated to a secondary service if an MSS system is using the band to support radionavigation systems.

Globalstar agrees generally with the WRC Advisory Committee preliminary view that WRC-07 does not need to modify existing satellite allocations to permit introduction of civil aviation applications by existing satellite services and networks. However, to the extent any new services or applications are introduced into bands in which satellite services are primary, the existing satellite services and applications must be protected.

NTIA states that it expects a portion of the 5091-5150 MHz band "will be reserved for the fixed service limited to aeronautical applications at airports." It is not clear whether NTIA believes that the existing ARNS allocation in this band requires modification to include AM(R)S, or how a reservation for radionavigation systems would be introduced. In either event, Globalstar urges the Commission to consider the existing use of the band by NGSO MSS systems and the potential importance of these systems to aviation communications in the future.

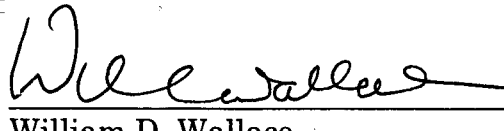
The public interest and the goals of Agenda Item 1.6 will be served by continuing to protect the operation of commercial NGSO MSS systems in the 5091-5150 MHz band, and Globalstar urges the Commission to take these views into account in studying the use of the 5091-5150 MHz band for new aeronautical services.

Respectfully submitted,

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