



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Mr. Patrick Masambu
Director General & Chief Executive Officer
International Telecommunications Satellite Organization
4400 Jenifer Street N.W. Suite 332
Washington, DC 20015

September 27, 2024

Dear Mr. Masambu:

Responsive to the decisions of the Twenty-fifth Assembly of Parties and in accordance with Articles XII(e)(i) and XII(e)(iv) of the Agreement Relating to the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO), as amended (the “ITSO Agreement”), the United States hereby submits a Report in its capacity as one of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Notifying Administrations for Intelsat License LLC (Intelsat).¹ This report covers the period of January 2024 through June 2024.

The United States, to which the frequency assignments in the Fixed Satellite Service (FSS) C- and Ku-bands were transferred when the United States was selected as a Notifying Administration at the time of privatization (“Transferred Assignments”),² has continued to authorize the use of the Transferred Assignments by Intelsat consistent with its obligations under Article XII(c) of the ITSO Agreement. At the time of privatization, the United States issued licenses to Intelsat and has since granted a number of modifications to the licenses in a transparent, non-discriminatory, and competitively neutral manner, consistent with U.S. licensing processes, international obligations and Article XII(c).

During the period of January 2024 through June 2024, to allow Intelsat to facilitate its fleet management operations and deploy new space stations, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) acted on two applications for regular authority from Intelsat involving Transferred Assignments.

- On May 7, 2024, the Satellite Programs and Policy Division granted, with conditions, Intelsat License LLC’s request for modification of Intelsat 1R’s authorization by extending the space station’s license term to August 15, 2024. Intelsat 1R operates at the 157.1° E.L. orbital location in the 3700-4200 MHz, 10.95-11.2 GHz, 11.45-11.95 GHz (space-to-Earth); and 5925-6425 MHz and 13.75-14.5 GHz (Earth-to-space) frequency bands. Intelsat 1R conducts telemetry, tracking and command operations using the following center frequencies: 11696 MHz, 11697 MHz (space-to-Earth); and 13995 MHz and 14498.5 MHz (Earth-to-space). (SAT-MOD-20240328-00067) (reissued June 6, 2024).

¹ The United States intends to submit a supplementary report in order to increase the frequency of its reports to twice a year, instead of once a year. As a result, the supplementary report will cover the period of January 1 through June 30, and the annual report will cover the period of July 1 through December 31.

² The transferred frequency assignments were identified as “Common Heritage” in the ITSO Agreement.

- On June 26, 2024, the Satellite Programs and Policy Division granted, with conditions, Intelsat License LLC's request for modification of Intelsat 902's license by: (1) extending Intelsat 902's license term through February 28, 2026; (2) changing the platform bias and resulting C-band coverage; and (3) expanding east/west station-keeping tolerance to +/- 0.10 degrees. Intelsat 902 operates at the 50.1 W.L. orbital location in the 3625-4200 MHz, 10.95-11.2 GHz, and 11.45-11.7 GHz (space-to-Earth); and 5850-6425 MHz and 14.0-14.5 GHz (Earth-to-space) frequency bands. Intelsat 902 conducts telemetry, tracking and command using the following center frequencies: 3947.5 MHz, 3948.0 MHz, 3952.0 MHz, 3952.5 MHz (space-to-Earth); and 6173.7 MHz and 6176.3 MHz (Earth-to-space) (SAT-MOD-20240430-00091).
- While beyond the scope of the January 2024 to June 2024 timeframe, on August 13, 2024, the Satellite Programs and Policy Division granted, with conditions, Intelsat LLC's request for special temporary authority for an additional 30 days, to perform telemetry, tracking and command operations necessary to de-orbit Intelsat 1R from the 157.1° E.L. orbital location (SAT-STA-20240731-00166). Intelsat anticipates that de-orbit will be completed by mid-November 2024.

In addition to the actions taken regarding the above applications, on April 16, 2024, the FCC requested that Intelsat describe its plans, if any, for operations at the 50.0° W.L. orbital location³, and its plans for future operations at the 20° W.L. orbital location (NSS-7 was retired in January 2024)⁴. For the 50.0 W.L. orbital location, Intelsat stated that: (i) it operates Intelsat 902 from that orbital location in the 3700-4200 MHz, 5925-6425 MHz, 11.45-11.7 GHz, and 14.0-14.5 GHz frequency bands; (ii) that it suspended the ITU filings for the 11.7-11.95 GHz and 11.95-12.2 GHz frequency bands; and (iii) that it intends to deploy a satellite to the nominal 50° W.L. location that will operate in the 11.7-12.2 GHz frequency band in the next few years. For operations at the 20° W.L. orbital location, Intelsat stated that it intends to deploy, no later than January 2027, a satellite that will operate in the 10.95-11.2 GHz, 11.45-11.95 GHz, 12.5-12.75 GHz (space-to-Earth), and 14.0-14.5 GHz (Earth-to-space) frequency bands.

In its capacity as a Notifying Administration for the Transferred Assignments, the United States, through the FCC, has been working with Intelsat, as it does with other U.S.-licensed operators, to ensure effective coordination of those assignments to avoid harmful interference. In keeping with FCC policy, Intelsat has been encouraged to undertake direct meetings with other foreign licensed operators to resolve coordination issues. As part of this process, during the period from January 2024 through June 2024, the administration of Germany has coordinated several agreements with Intelsat. These agreements have resulted in the protection of the Transferred Assignments. All of the Transferred Assignments have been notified to the ITU and have been entered into the Master International Frequency Register (MIFR). No changes to the Transferred Assignments have been necessary as a result of past coordination activities, and it is anticipated that the same will be the case in the future.

³ See *Modification of the authorization to extend the license term for the Intelsat 9 space station through September 30, 2024*, ICFS File No. SAT-MOD-20221020-00148 (granted Oct. 4, 2023). Intelsat stated that operation of the 11.95-12.2 GHz frequency assignment was under the USASAT-80A International Telecommunication Union filing.

⁴ See Letter from Daniel C. H. Mah, Vice President, Legal & Regulatory Affairs, New Skies Satellites B.V., and Cynthia J. Grady, Assistant General Counsel, Intelsat License LLC, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, dated Feb. 22, 2024 (ICFS File No. SAT-MOD-20230728-00187). Intelsat operated the 10.95-11.2 GHz, 11.45-11.95 GHz, 12.5-12.75 GHz (space-to-Earth), and 14.0-14.5 GHz (Earth-to-space) frequency bands on NSS-7.

The United States, in its role as Notifying Administration, has continued to authorize the use of the Transferred Assignments consistent with its obligations under Article XII(c) of the ITSO Agreement. The United States continues to be committed to efficient and equitable use of the geostationary-satellite orbit and the related spectrum, as well as adherence to the requirements of the ITSO Agreement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug May', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Douglas C. May
Senior Advisor

International Information and Communications Policy
Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy
United States Department of State