

**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Recommendations Approved by World	)	<b>IB Docket No. 16-185</b>
Radiocommunication Conference Advisory	)	
Committee	)	

**COMMENTS OF ONEWEB ON DRAFT US PROPOSALS  
REGARDING WRC AGENDA ITEM 7 ISSUE A**

WorldVu Development Limited (dba “OneWeb”) submits these comments in response to the draft US Proposal for the Work of the Conference concerning Agenda Item 7 Issue A.<sup>1</sup> This is one of the issues that will be considered at the 2019 World Radiocommunication Conference (“WRC-19”).”

**Introduction**

Agenda Item 7 is “to consider possible changes, and other options, in response to Resolution 86 (Rev. Marrakesh, 2002) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, an advance publication, coordination, notification and recording procedures for frequency assignments pertaining to satellite networks, in accordance with Resolution 86 (Rev.WRC-07), in order to facilitate rational, efficient and economical use of radio frequencies and any associated orbits, including the geostationary satellite orbit.”

Issue A of this agenda item involves “Bringing into use of frequency assignments to all non-GSO satellite systems, and consideration of a milestone-based approach for the deployment of non-GSO satellite systems in specific bands and services.

This is an important agenda item for the United States, as it will impact the development of future NGSO systems.

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<sup>1</sup> See WAC/074 (21.09.18), Letter from Peter A. Tenhula, Acting Associate Administrator, Office of Spectrum Management, NTIA to Tom Sullivan, Chief, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, and later corrigendum sent by e-mail from Stephen Baruch to the interested parties, dated October 15, 2018.

## Background

The United States has been particularly proactive on this agenda item in the main ITU forum that has addressed this matter – Working Party 4A (WP4A).<sup>2</sup> The U.S. companies involved in WP4A have been heavily engaged in the preparation of the many contributions to the WP4A on this topic over the past two years and more, and the activity will continue at the CPM-19-2 in 2019. The current NTIA proposal<sup>3</sup> to which these comments apply is consistent with this long-term effort on the part of the United States.

## Discussion

OneWeb believes that this current proposal, as recently modified by the NTIA, is entirely consistent with the CPM text proposals that were submitted as U.S. contributions to ITU WP4A in July 2018. The milestone proposal by the United States was a consensus position that did not totally satisfy any single operator. For example, OneWeb proposed more ambitious milestones, and others preferred less stringent ones. The result was a solution that did not fully satisfy any individual operator, but which strikes an appropriate balance between allowing operators to deploy their NGSO constellations in a feasible manner and prevention of spectrum warehousing.

NTIA proposal ADD USA/7A/16 contains a proposed draft new WRC Resolution [NGSO-MILESTONES] that includes the U.S.-proposed milestones<sup>4</sup> that were submitted to the July 2018 meeting of ITU-R WP4A. These milestones and the minimal deployment conditions (in terms of percentage of the filed number of satellites in the NGSO constellation) are:

2 years after the seven-year regulatory date referred to in No. **11.44** – 10%;

5 years after the seven-year regulatory date referred to in No. **11.44** – 50%;

7 years after the seven-year regulatory date referred to in No. **11.44** – 100%;;

The actual language of *resolves* 3 adds 30 days for the notifying administration to provide the complete deployment information to the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau.

The NTIA proposal also includes transitional arrangements for NGSO satellite systems that have been brought into use, and for which the seven-year regulatory date referred to in No. **11.44** expires before 1 January 2021, providing such systems with additional time to meet the

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<sup>2</sup> The chairman of the WP4A and its sub-group that has drafted all the WP4A text on this are from the USA.

<sup>3</sup> The current text contained in DA-18-1017 Attachment B includes an error in some of the dates of the Draft New Resolution that the NTIA has since corrected. *See International Bureau Seeks Comment on Recommendations Approved by World Radio Communication Conference Advisory Committee*, Public Notice, IB Docket No. 16-185, DA 18-1017, Attachment B (October 3, 2018) (“PN”).

<sup>4</sup> *See resolves* 3 of the draft proposal.

milestones. The dates contained in the Draft Resolution as attached to the Public Notice were erroneously entered and have since been corrected by the NTIA.<sup>5</sup>

The current text in Attachment B and the correct dates that should be inserted in *resolves* 4 of the Draft New Resolution are:

<b>Current text in Attachment B</b>	<b>Corrected text</b>
no later than 1 July 2021	no later than 1 July 2021 (correct)
no later than 1 February 2024	no later than 1 February 2023
no later than 1 February 2027	no later than 1 February 2026
no later than 1 February 2029	no later than 1 February 2028

The corrected text would maintain the appropriate 2/5/7 year milestone timing for the systems that have the end of their seven-year regulatory period on or after 1 January 2021. These dates also include the 30-day period for the administration to provide the required information to the Bureau.

It is OneWeb's view that the only issue that may need to be more carefully considered in this proposal is the number of days that an NGSO satellite has to remain operational to constitute a valid Bringing Into Use (BIU), whether 1 day, 30 days, 90 days or any other value. This matter could be resolved through e-mail dialogue between the interested parties in the United States, or it could be left as a parameter to be further defined. The latter could be achieved by referring in the document to a period of "[one][thirty][ninety][xxx]" days.

Removing this document from WAC approval will simply delay U.S. contributions to CITEL, such that there would not be any U.S. inputs to the December CITEL meeting on this important topic. Such a path forward would essentially concede leadership on this key issue to others in CITEL, and potentially jeopardize U.S. interests as a result. Proceeding with this document to CITEL will ensure continued U.S. leadership while still retaining the ability to further adjust the details of the proposal after the December CITEL meeting, as more experience is gained from that meeting, other regional group meetings and the CPM-19-2.

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<sup>5</sup> See PN, Attachment B at p. 56.

## Conclusion

OneWeb supports the current version of this proposal that was distributed on October 15, 2018, with the corrections provided by the NTIA and possibly with adjustments to the period of operation required for the BIU. This is consistent with several years of detailed work on this topic by the U.S. participants in WP4A. Any adjustments to the BIU period could be made before or after the December CITEL meeting. It is imperative that the U.S. maintains its leadership position on this matter within the ITU and sending this proposal forward to CITEL is an essential step to ensuring that.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Mariah Shuman

Mariah Shuman  
Head of Regulatory Affairs, Americas  
OneWeb  
1785 Greensboro Station Place  
Tower 3, Floor 8  
McLean, VA 22102