

March 03, 2021

**VIA ECFS**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
45 L Street NE  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: **Notice of Ex Parte Presentation**  
***Expanding Flexible Use of the 3.7 to 4.2 GHz Band, GN Docket No. 18-122***

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 01, 2021, the undersigned, outside counsel to SES Americom, Inc. ("SES"), along with Christophe De Hauwer, Petra Vorwig, and Steve Corda of SES, and Peter Davidson and Tom McNamara of Intelsat, met with Commissioner Simington and the members of his senior staff listed in Attachment A.

During the meeting, the representatives of SES and Intelsat provided a status update on the great progress the parties have made on the C-band transition.<sup>1</sup> In particular, the parties highlighted that SES and Intelsat are creating jobs and paying billions of dollars to small and large businesses throughout the United States. The representatives also explained that SES and Intelsat have met all regulatory milestones to date and are on track to satisfy their clearing obligations by the Commission's accelerated relocation deadlines.

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Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's Rules, this letter is being filed in ECFS in the above-referenced docket.<sup>2</sup> Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned with any questions.

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<sup>1</sup> See Attachment B.

<sup>2</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b).

# SheppardMullin

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Very truly yours,

*/s/ Brian D. Weimer*

Brian D. Weimer  
for SHEPPARD, MULLIN, RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP

*Counsel to SES Americom, Inc.*

Attachments

**Attachment A**

Carolyn Roddy, Chief of Staff and Senior Legal Advisor of Wireline Issues  
Erin Boone, Wireless Advisor  
Adam Cassady, Media Advisor  
Michael Sweeney, Confidential Assistant

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**Attachment B**

# C-Band Transition Progress and Outlook

01 March 2021

Presentation to Commissioner Simington

**SES**<sup>^</sup>



# Clearing C-Band Spectrum for 5G

The next generation of mobile communications technology, **5G**, will be one of the **most important drivers of innovation and economic growth** over the next two decades.

For 5G to be deployed, U.S. wireless operators need access to the **C-band**, a band of spectrum currently used by Satellite Operators serving U.S. broadcasters and programmers to **provide TV and radio to nearly 120 million American homes**, as well as other critical data transmission services.

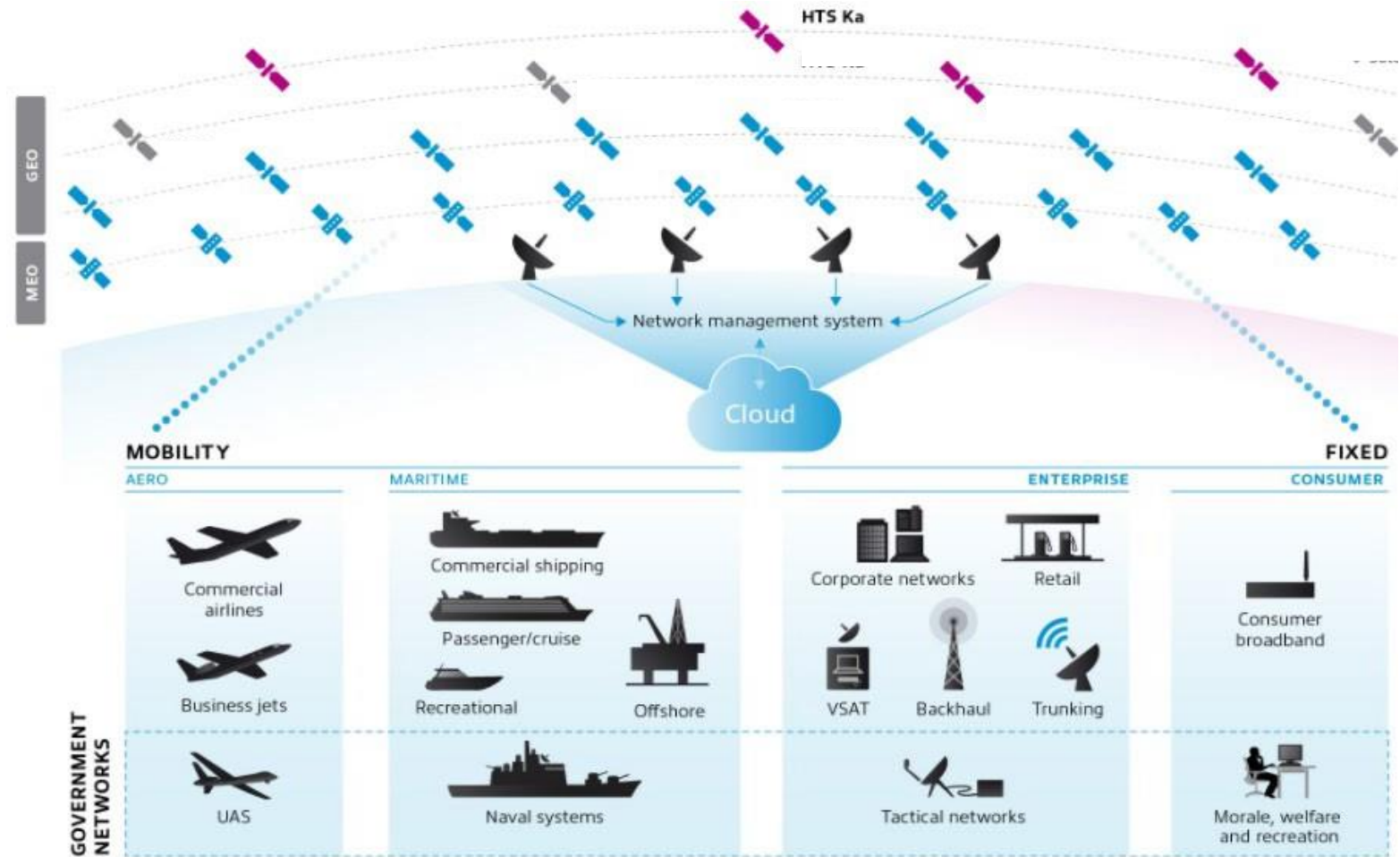
The FCC spent two years carefully developing a **plan to clear 300 MHz of C-band spectrum for 5G mobile services** (including a 20-MHz guard band) in the contiguous United States (CONUS) and established accelerated clearing deadlines to ensure spectrum is cleared quickly, while preserving existing TV and radio services.

To **deliver on the clearing milestones** set out in the FCC's Order, SES and Intelsat are hard at work installing equipment and procuring satellites necessary to provide service continuity to their existing customers, while simultaneously clearing 280 MHz of spectrum for 5G.



# GEO and MEO Satellites Provide a Range of Data Services

- High performance 3G and 4G services
- Enterprise access to cloud applications, storage and compute
- Connectivity for thousands of corporate sites in finance, manufacturing, education & health
- Communication services to remote communities enabling Wi-Fi adoption
- Humanitarian, disaster relief programs
- High-quality live inflight or onboard entertainment, and fast internet for thousands of airplanes and vessels traveling locally and globally



# C-Band Report and Order

## Transition of existing satellite customers:

Protecting TV and radio services while moving them to upper 200 MHz of C-band

## Clearing of 300 MHz :

Building out equipment to make room for 5G deployments in lower 280 MHz of C-band

## Accelerated relocation payments:

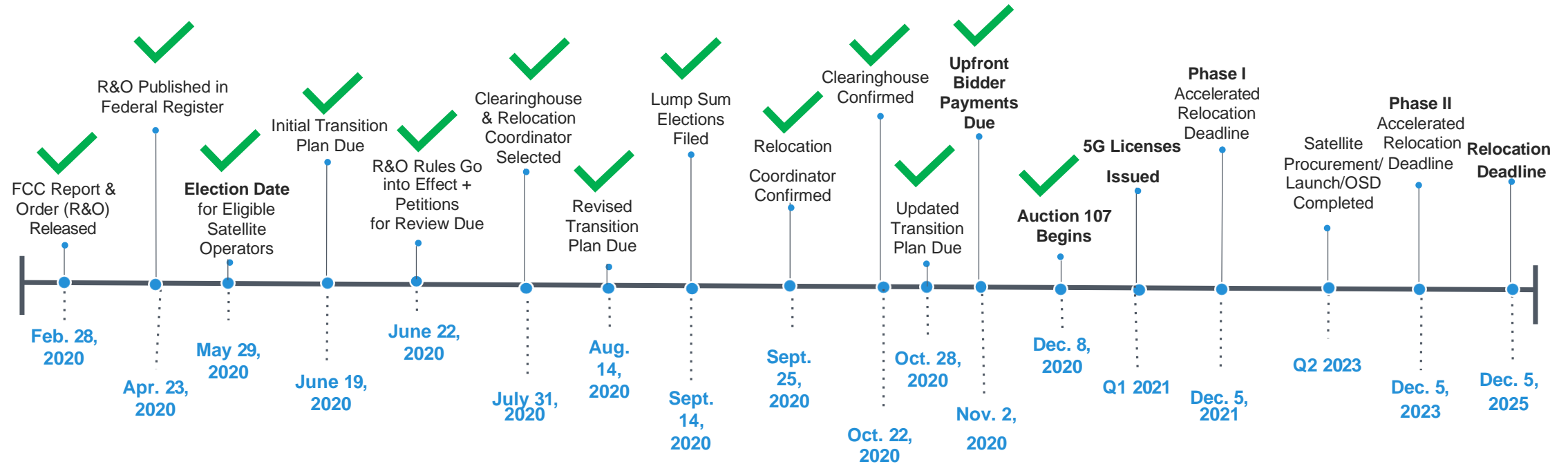
Incentivize satellite operators to clear spectrum quickly, creating more value

## Auction of cleared spectrum:

Allows bidders to secure the spectrum they need for widespread 5G in the U.S.



# C-Band Transition Milestones



**STATUS: On track** to clear 120 MHz of spectrum for the deployment of 5G in high-demand areas by 5 Dec 2021 and 300 MHz throughout CONUS by 5 Dec 2023. All regulatory milestones have been met to date.

# Overview – SES and Intelsat Combined

Install 600-700 antennas, 20,000+ filters, and 30,000+ satellite receivers at nearly 9,000 Incumbent Earth Station antennas to maintain and protect U.S. TV and radio services during and after the transition.

Launch 11 satellites to ensure continuity of service for video, data, and U.S. government users.

Build out 4 teleports and 31 large antennas to make room for 5G deployments throughout CONUS.

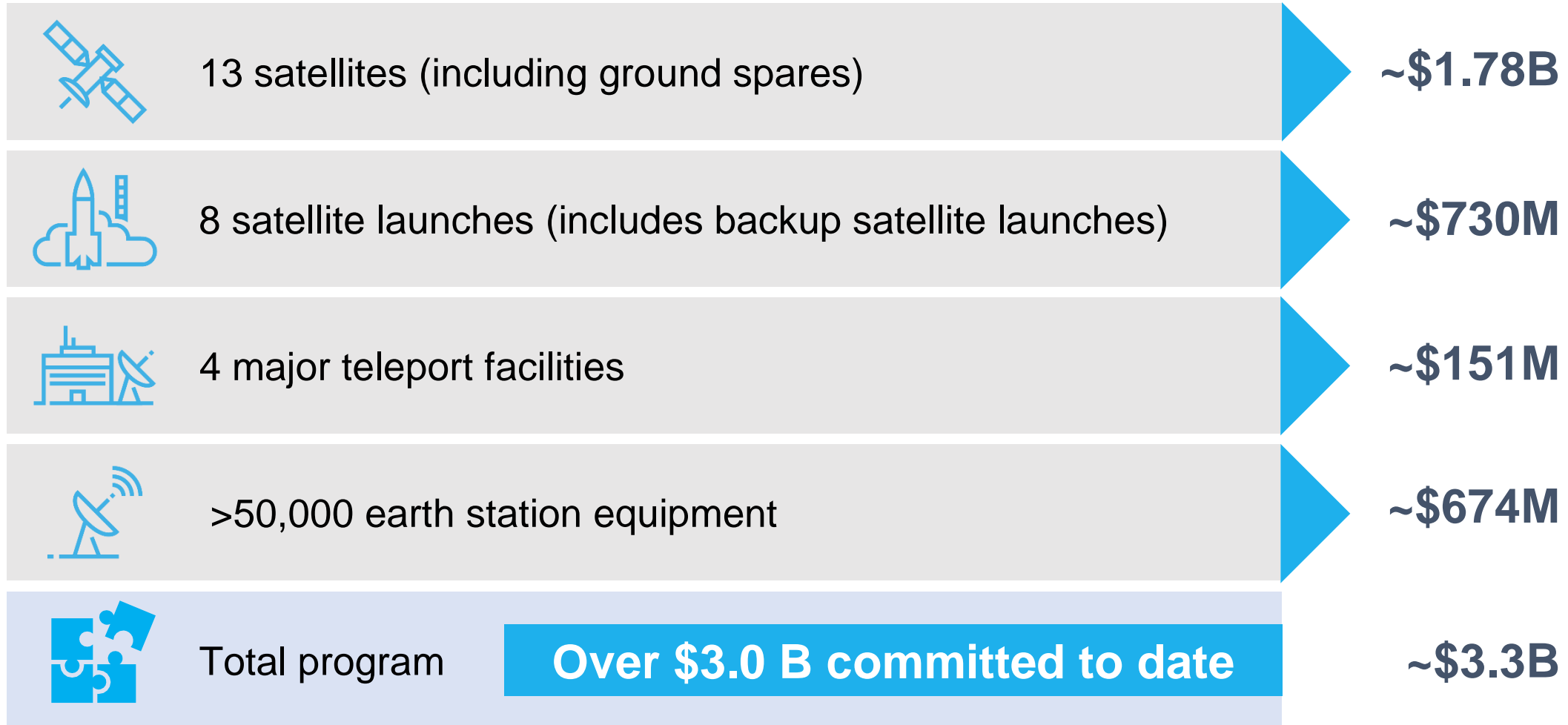
FCC auction allowing bidders to secure the spectrum they need for widespread 5G in the U.S.

**Seamless continuation and protection of existing TV and radio services delivered via C-band to nearly 120 million homes.**

**Rollout of 5G in 46 top U.S. markets as early as December 2021 and to all Americans in contiguous U.S. (CONUS) by December 2023.**



# Program Investment: SES and Intelsat Combined



# Ecosystem Partners: SES & Intelsat

## Satellite Manufacturers

**MAXAR**

**NORTHROP  
GRUMMAN**

**BOEING**

ThalesAlenia  
a Thales / Leonardo company Space

## Affiliate Services

**USSIglobal**

**NATCI**

**WESCO**

**CONVERGENT™**

**SSE**

**SUPERIOR SATELLITE  
ENGINEERS**

## Antennas & Equipment

**GENERAL DYNAMICS**  
Mission Systems

**KRATOS**

**PH Satellite**

**STS  
GLOBAL**

**MFC**  
MicroWave Fiber Company, Inc.

**VIKING  
SATCOM**

## Compression Vendors

**COMMSCOPE** harmonic **Synamedia**

## Teleport Operators

**US ELECTRODYNAMICS, INC.**

**INTERNATIONAL GATEWAYS**  
"BRINGING THE WORLD TOGETHER"

**verizon**

**AT&T**

## Satellite Launchers

**SPACE X**

**arianespace**

**ULA**

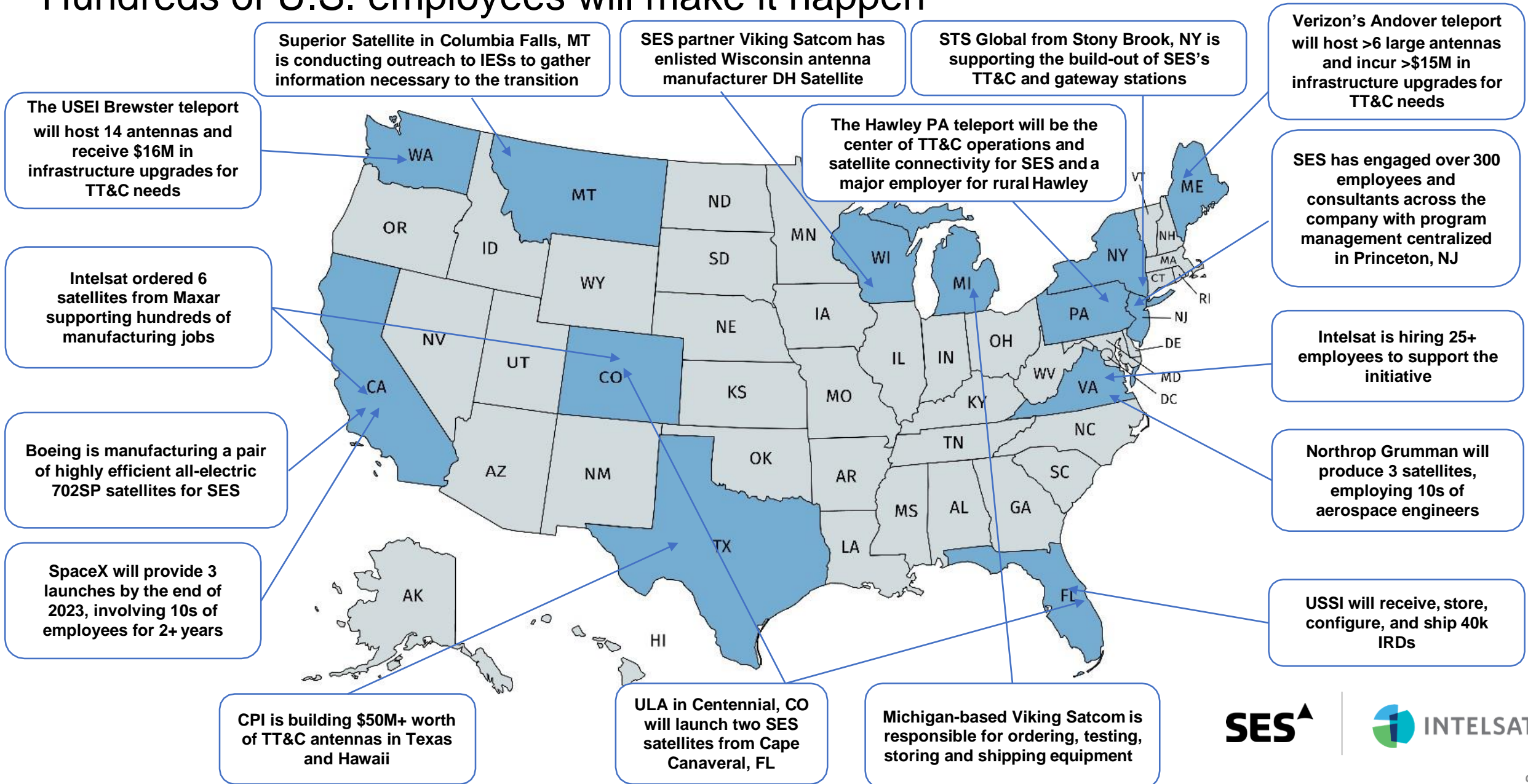
80% of the \$3.3B will be paid to U.S. companies.

**SES**

**INTELSAT**

# Economic Impact of the C-Band Transition

## Hundreds of U.S. employees will make it happen





# Progress

Installing antennas and satellite ground control equipment at USEI Teleport in Brewster, WA to ensure continued safe satellite operations.



Transitioning non-profit radio station in Manahawkin, NJ.



# Transition Activities

## Complete

- File plan with FCC
- Hire companies to build satellites necessary to transition customers
- Hire companies to launch satellites
- Establish communications channels to manage Earth Station concerns

## In Progress

- Manufacture the satellites
- Partner with industry groups to understand their questions and share best practices
- Outreach to ensure all Incumbent Earth Stations accessing satellites have been accounted for and to schedule equipment installation by operator-hired teams
- Onboarded nearly all the vendors we need to complete our Phase I and Phase II clearing obligations.
- Deploy teams to earth stations to install antenna equipment filters
- Install antennas and satellite ground control equipment at TT&C locations to ensure continued safe satellite operations
- Consolidate gateway services to allow ongoing receipt of international video content and to support valuable data services
- Collectively completed over 50% of Phase I service transitions on the satellites as of January 2021
- Ordered nearly all filters and are well underway in completing the technology upgrades needed for transitioning services.
- Begin customer migrations

## Not Yet Started

- Launch satellites
- Raise the satellites to their testing orbital locations
- Complete testing
- Move the satellites to their final orbital locations and initiate service on the satellites
- Migrate services from old satellites to new satellites