



April 20, 2018

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**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Marlene H. Dortch  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Intelsat, SES, and Intel Notice of Ex Parte Presentation*  
GN Docket Nos. 17-183, 18-122

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Per FCC Rule 1.1206, this letter provides notice that on April 18, 2018, the representatives of Intelsat Corporation (“Intelsat”), SES Americom, Inc. (“SES”), Intel Corporation (“Intel”), and Auctionomics listed in Attachment A (the “Parties”) met with representatives from the Commission listed in Attachment B.

The Parties discussed the joint, market-based proposal of Intelsat, SES and Intel to make spectrum in the 3.7-4.2 GHz band available for mobile broadband use. Specifically, the Parties addressed how clearing spectrum in the band will be an extremely complex undertaking requiring major operational shifts for Consortium members. Intelsat and SES explained that not all C-band satellites are fungible and that the satellites used to distribute video programming are already heavily utilized. For these reasons, Intelsat and SES have proposed an amount of spectrum clearing – 100 MHz available for terrestrial mobile use plus additional transition band spectrum needed to ensure that 5G operations are compatible with ongoing Fixed Satellite Service (“FSS”) to customers in the uncleared spectrum – that they believe can reasonably be accomplished within 18-36 months following a final Commission order. The Parties stated that if the terrestrial demand for mid-band spectrum is as robust as claimed, their market-based approach could result in additional spectrum being cleared in the future – but in a manner and timeframe that protects Intelsat’s and SES’s customers and their businesses.

In addition, Intelsat and SES provided details of the efficient, market-driven process that will result in licensed mobile service in the relevant portion of the 3.7-4.2 GHz spectrum within 18-36 months of a Commission Order. The Consortium’s market-based selection process and negotiation of Secondary Market Agreements (“SMAs”) would begin immediately after the Order and take approximately 3-8 months. Upon execution of the SMAs, the prospective mobile licensees would file

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FCC license applications, which would be put on public notice. Grant of the coordinated mobile licenses would be conditioned upon full release of SMA funds held in escrow to the Consortium, and the licensees could not begin operations until this condition is met. From filing to FCC grant, SES and Intelsat estimate this phase to take 2-7 months.

SES and Intelsat expect that under the SMAs, the FCC's grant of these mobile licenses would trigger the payment of the clearing costs by the mobile licensees to the Consortium, and the Consortium would immediately launch the clearing process, estimated to be completed 12-20 months after license grant. Finally, following clearing, final SMA payments will be provided from the escrow to the Consortium. The FCC would then issue a public notice to remove the payment condition from these coordinated mobile licenses as well as primary status protection for FSS operations in the C-band spectrum covered by the licenses.

Finally, Intelsat and SES questioned the feasibility of the Broadband Access Coalition ("BAC") proposal to modify licensing rules to enable terrestrial point-to-multipoint co-frequency sharing in the 3.7-4.2 GHz band.<sup>1</sup> The BAC argues that it can both protect satellite operations by mitigating interference after it occurs and accommodate future changes in satellite operations. SES and Intelsat do not believe that BAC can remedy interference quickly enough to satisfy the high reliability requirements of video customers— particularly given the impracticality of potentially having to contact point-to-multipoint operators near thousands of receive sites in the event a video customer needed to change frequencies. More fundamentally, however, Intelsat and SES do not understand the logic of incentivizing FSS operators to clear spectrum for 5G mobile use, while also introducing other fixed operations – by BAC members – that will impair the spectrum for mobile operations and burden the spectrum remaining to accommodate FSS customers. For those reasons, SES and Intelsat are assessing the possibility that accommodating the BAC's proposal in the 6 GHz band may cause less disruption to satellite services.

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<sup>1</sup> *Petition for Rulemaking to Amend and Modernize Parts 25 and 101 of the Commission's Rules to Authorize and Facilitate the Deployment of Licensed Point-to-Multipoint Fixed Wireless Broadband Service in the 3700-4200 MHz Band, RM-11791* (filed June 21, 2017) ("BAC Petition").



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Please contact the undersigned with any questions regarding this letter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry Gola". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "H".

Henry Gola  
Wiley Rein LLP

*Counsel to Intelsat Corporation*

Attachment

cc: Don Stockdale  
Thomas Sullivan  
Julius Knapp  
Evan Kwerel  
Paul LaFontaine



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**ATTACHMENT A**

Bruno Fromont, Senior Vice President, Strategy & Planning, Intelsat

Susan Crandall, Associate General Counsel, Intelsat

Hazem Moakkit, Vice President, Spectrum Strategy, Intelsat

Alexander Gerdenitsch, Manager, Spectrum Policy, Americas, Intelsat

Christophe De Hauwer, Chief Strategy & Development Officer, SES S.A.

Gerry Oberst, President, SES Americom, Inc.

Kimberly Baum, Vice President, Spectrum Management & Development Americas, SES Americom, Inc.

Yves Bausch, Vice President, Strategic Portfolio Development, SES, S.A.

Peter Pitsch, Associate General Counsel, Intel

Paul Milgrom, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Auctionomics (via phone)

Jennifer Hindin, Wiley Rein LLP, counsel for Intelsat

Henry Gola, Wiley Rein LLP, counsel for Intelsat

Michele Farquhar, Hogan Lovells US LLP, counsel for SES Americom, Inc.



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## **ATTACHMENT B**

### **Wireless Telecommunications Bureau**

Don Stockdale  
Matthew Pearl  
Paul Powell  
Becky Schwartz  
Jeff Tignor  
Ariel Diamond  
Blais Scinto  
Peter Daronco  
Thomas Derenge  
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### **International Bureau**

Thomas Sullivan  
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Jennifer Gilsenan  
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Paul Blais (via phone)  
Kerry Murray (via phone)

### **Office of Engineering and Technology**

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### **Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis**

Evan Kwerel  
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