

May 19, 2017

File Number: 48HH-246229

VIA ECFS

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Notice of Ex Parte Presentation in IB Docket No. 16-408

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 17, 2017, Mariah Shuman, Senior Director of Regulatory Affairs of WorldVu Satellites Limited (“OneWeb”) and the undersigned, outside counsel to OneWeb, met with Jose Albuquerque, Karl Kensinger, Kerry Murray, and Stephen Duall (via telephone) of the International Bureau’s Satellite Division.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Comments and Reply Comments filed by OneWeb in response to the Commission’s Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“NPRM”).¹ The discussions during the meeting focused on OneWeb’s positions of record in the above-captioned proceeding.² In addition, OneWeb described for Commission staff its ambitious deployment goals and the substantial progress made towards launching its multi-billion dollar, global non-geostationary orbit satellite constellation.

Specifically, OneWeb explained that its first satellites are currently set to be launched in March 2018. These satellites will be manufactured at the OneWeb facility in Toulouse, France, where the final assembly line is being inaugurated next month. OneWeb’s second and third final assembly lines will be located at OneWeb’s new, state-of-the-art satellite facility in Exploration Park, Florida, which is currently under construction.

OneWeb emphasized the immediacy of its plans: in less than one year, OneWeb anticipates its first satellites will be in-orbit and operational. OneWeb expects these efforts to result in a

¹ See *Update to Parts 2 and 25 Concerning Non-Geostationary, Fixed-Satellite Service Systems and Related Matters*, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 31 FCC Rcd 13651 (2016).

² See Comments of WorldVu Satellites Limited, IB Docket No. 16-408 (filed Feb. 28, 2017); Reply Comments of WorldVu Satellites Limited, IB Docket No. 16-408 (filed Apr. 10, 2017).

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constellation that will serve as a critical component of Commission-led efforts to bridge the digital divide in the U.S.

OneWeb reiterated its primary mission: to bridge the digital divide for the billions of unconnected people by providing broadband services equivalent to that found in any city in terms of throughput and latency. OneWeb highlighted its growth path, which aims to accomplish these goals by 2025. For example, starting in just 2019 OneWeb will enable high speed access for all of Alaska where homes, tribal health centers, and tens of thousands of residents are without adequate broadband access. Within its first two years of service, OneWeb intends to make significant progress towards closing the digital divide in the U.S.

OneWeb noted that its NGSO constellation will efficiently use the Ku-band spectrum that was allocated by the ITU 20 years ago. The ITU allocated this spectrum to help reach “the most isolated regions of the world with high-capacity and low-cost means of communication” and “to promote the extension of the benefit of the new telecommunication technologies to all the world’s inhabitants.”³ OneWeb plans to fulfill these goals by launching and operating its innovative NGSO constellation.

OneWeb’s mission of connecting the previously unconnected will increase economic growth, civic participation, and improve educational opportunities. OneWeb looks forward to working with the Commission to help unlock these benefits and maintain the leading role of the U.S. in facilitating satellite-based connectivity.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission’s Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b), this letter is being filed in ECFS and e-mailed to the meeting participants. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned with any questions.

Very truly yours,



Douglas A. Svor
for SHEPPARD, MULLIN, RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP

³ Res. 130 (WRC-97) at *considerings a*) and e).