

September 10, 2018

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

Re: *WiMAX Forum Petition Proposing Rules for the Aeronautical Mobile
Airport Communication System, RM-11793*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On September 6, 2018, Declan Byrne, President of WiMAX Forum; Andre Fouche, CEO of ConvergeX Technologies LLC; and the undersigned of Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP, counsel to the WiMAX Forum (collectively, the “Parties”), met with Zenji Nakazawa, Public Safety and Consumer Protection Advisor to Chairman Ajit Pai, to discuss the above-listed proceeding.¹ Later that day, Mr. Byrne and the undersigned also met with David Plotinsky, Chief of the Cybersecurity and Communications Reliability Division within the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau to discuss this proceeding.

The Parties explained how AeroMACS will improve public safety at and around airports throughout the country. Specifically, AeroMACS will support critical air traffic control messages over a secure network; enable the transmission to pilots of up-to-date information on flight plans, maps, and weather forecasts; be used by fire rescue, snow removal, and ground personnel to coordinate operations at airports; and allow airport security personnel to monitor live video feeds. In addition, AeroMACS networks could enable solutions that prevent unauthorized operation of planes and access to secure areas within an airport. These types of solutions, using secure AeroMACS networks, potentially could help to prevent incidents like the one that occurred last month at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.² The Parties stressed

¹ Andre Fouche joined this meeting by teleconference.

² See, Andy Pasztor & Andrew Tangel, *Stolen Horizon Air Plane Believed Deliberately Crashed*, WALL ST. J., Aug. 20, 2018, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/stolen-horizon-air-plane-believed-deliberately-crashedsources-1534808847>.

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that the safety benefits enabled by AeroMACS networks cannot be realized until the Commission adopts service rules for AeroMACS operations.

The Parties also described the momentum that continues to build for AeroMACS internationally. In particular, three Chinese airlines are currently using AeroMACS in the cockpit, and Aviation Data Communications Corporation of China recently announced plans to connect thirty airports in China with AeroMACS by 2019. The Parties stressed that the prompt issuance of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing AeroMACS service rules will help ensure that the AeroMACS ecosystem in the United States develops on a timeline consistent with that of other countries.

Pursuant to the Commission's rules, this notice is being filed in the above-reference docket for inclusion in the public record. Please contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sean T. Conway

Sean T. Conway

Counsel for the WiMAX Forum

cc: Zenji Nakazawa, Public Safety and Consumer Protection Advisor to Chairman Ajit Pai
David Plotinsky, Chief of the Cybersecurity and Communications Reliability Division
Rachael Bender, Wireless and International Advisor to Chairman Ajit Pai
Michael Carowitz, Special Counsel to Chairman Ajit Pai
Donald Stockdale, Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Charles Mathias, Associate Bureau Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Scot Stone, Deputy Chief of the Mobility Division