

September 18, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

Re: Notice of Ex Parte Meeting, RM-11798

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Per Commission Rule 1.1206, this letter provides notice that on September 13, 2019, the Aerospace Industries Association (“AIA”) and member company representatives<sup>1</sup> met with Scott Stone, Linda Chang, Roger Noel and Tim McGuire from the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (the “Bureau”) regarding the AIA Petition for Rulemaking in the 5030-5091 MHz band seeking licensing and service rules for Command and Non-Payload Communications (“CNPC”) for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (“UAS”). (the “Petition”) (RM-11798).

During the meeting, the group updated the Bureau staff on the current status of industry discussions, views of manufacturers that are developing systems or currently operating in this spectrum band, and why this matter is ripe to move forward to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“NPRM”) phase.

AIA initially updated Commission staff on the work that has taken place by AIA with industry since the Petition was filed in February 2018. Since that time AIA has been in active discussions with interested industry parties related to expressed concerns that ultimately informed AIA’s Supplement filing submitted in the docket on June 26, 2019.

While AIA and its members acknowledged that sectors of industry may believe that there is more work to be done to develop right-sized service rules for CNPC operations, they urged the Commission to move forward on a NPRM as it is our view that the right forum to discuss any remaining concerns is a rulemaking.

AIA and its members then discussed the context that led AIA to file the Petition, including that it is the direct result of a unique global allocation made at the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference (“WRC”) for aeronautical mobile (route) services. The parties also discussed with the Commission staff that the proposal is technology neutral and not airspace deterministic. For example, the anticipated services rules would be based on industry-developed standards and

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<sup>1</sup> Max Fenkell, AIA; Ryan Terry, Lockheed Martin Corporation; Joe Cramer and Stella Weidner, The Boeing Company; Jim Ziarno, L3 Harris Corporation (by telephone); Richard Jehlen, LS Technologies (by telephone); Edward A. Yorkgitis, Jr., Kelley Drye & Warren LLP, Counsel for the Raytheon Company; Casper Wang and John Logan (Counsel), AeroVironment; Danny Hankins, Textron Aviation (by telephone)

FAA's guidance and rules for satisfying safety of operations, irrespective of the class of airspace in which such operations would be conducted.

During this segment of the discussion, AIA and its members also discussed that at least one standard has been developed to support CNPC operations in this band, that radio equipment is nearing completion of its development cycle and will soon be ready for market, and that both operators and integrators actively seek the opportunity to conduct critical missions for routine beyond visual line-of-sight operations that would rely entirely upon the C-band allocation. AIA stated that action by the FCC in the form of an established CNPC licensing framework and accompanying service rules, will be a key catalyst to enable routine domestic UAS operations and will bolster U.S. leadership in the UAS development domain.

AIA and its members continue to urge the Commission to move expeditiously on a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The record regarding the Petition is complete and the circumstances needed to underpin commencement of a rulemaking at the Commission are clearly in place.

Please direct any questions to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Max Fenkell', is positioned above the typed name and address.

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CC: Scott Stone  
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