

**BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
Petition of Aviation Spectrum)	
Resources, Inc. for Amendment of)	
Sections 87.173(b) and 87.263(a))	RM No. 11818
of the FCC's Rules to Allow Use of the)	
Lower 136 MHz Band by Aeronautical)	
Enroute Stations)	
)	

To: The Commission

REPLY COMMENTS OF UNITED PARCEL SERVICE, INC.

Pursuant to Section 1.405 of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or "Commission") Rules,¹ United Parcel Service, Inc. ("UPS") hereby submits these Reply Comments in response to the Commission's October 18, 2018, Public Notice ("PN" or "Notice") in the above-captioned proceeding.² For the reasons set forth below, UPS strongly supports the subject Petition and urges the Commission to move quickly to adopt the proposed amendments to the Commission's rules.

¹ 47 CFR § 1.405.

² Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau Reference Information Center Petition for Rulemakings Filed, Report No. 3106, released October 18, 2018.

UPS is a global leader in logistics, offering a broad range of solutions including the transportation of packages and freight; the facilitation of international trade; and the deployment of advanced technologies to manage more efficiently the world of business. Headquartered in Atlanta, UPS has more than 454,000 employees (approximately 374,000 being in the U.S.) and serves more than 220 countries and territories worldwide.

UPS delivers 20 million packages and documents daily, carrying approximately six percent of the U.S. gross domestic product and two percent of global GDP in its trucks and planes to every corner of the globe, every day. This rapid, efficient, and reliable air cargo and express service is a critical element of the international infrastructure of commerce, and the nation's economic strength. To provide this level of service, UPS operates 247 modern jet aircraft in support of mission-critical business communications and applications.

As Aviation Spectrum Resources, Inc. ("ASRI") explains in their Petition, the proposed rule change "will facilitate the expansion of the FAA's Data Communications ('DataComm') program in support of its Next Generation ('NextGen') initiative to modernize the nation's air transportation system."³ NextGen promises a long list of public benefits, including increased flight safety, reduced flying time, reduced fuel consumption and reduced emissions.

DataComm is already operational in the 136.500-136.975 MHz band, using

³ Petition at 1.

infrastructure that simultaneously supports both Aeronautical Operational Control (“AOC”) and Air Traffic Control (“ATC”) communications. The proposed rule changes would simply provide for expansion of this successful and proven technology into the 136.000-136.4875 MHz band.

As noted by Frontier Airlines, industry stakeholders--including airlines, business aviation interests, helicopter operators, other airspace users, and the FAA--have participated in numerous recent meetings related to the deployment of DataComm.⁴ UPS, as a member of the Aeronautical Frequency Committee (“AFC”), the Datalink Users Forum (“DLUF”), and other industry groups, has been an active participant in these discussions, and can confirm that there has been widespread support for the rule changes proposed here by ASRI.

As Delta Airlines notes, there is a clear consensus that the additional capacity from expansion into the lower 136 MHz band will be required by late 2019.⁵ Based on analysis of traffic growth, UPS agrees that any delay beyond the end of 2019 risks postponing the enormous benefits of NextGen.

For the foregoing reasons, UPS supports ASRI's Petition and asks the Commission to move quickly to adopt the proposed changes to its rules.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED PARCEL SERVICE, INC.

⁴ Comments of Frontier Airlines, RM No. 11818, at 1.

⁵ Comments of Delta Airlines, RM No. 11818, at 1.

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