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February 10, 2003

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

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Re: ET Docket No. 02-305

Dear Ms. Dortch:

In accordance with Paragraph 126 of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the above referenced proceeding (FCC 02-261, released October 7, 2002), enclosed herewith is a computer diskette containing the Comments of Aerospace and Flight Test Radio Coordinating Council being filed this date.

If there are any questions, concerning this matter, kindly contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



William K. Keane

Enclosure

cc: Qualex International

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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

In the Matter of)
)
Amendment of Parts 2, 25, and 87 of the)
Commission's Rules to Implement Decisions from)
World Radiocommunication Conferences)
Concerning Frequency Bands Between 28 MHz)
and 36 GHz and to Otherwise Update the Rules in)
this Frequency Range)
)
Amendment of Parts 2 and 25 of the)
Commission's Rules to Allocate Spectrum For)
Government and Non-Government Use in the)
Radionavigation-Satellite Service)

ET Docket No. 02-305

RM-10331

To: The Commission

**COMMENTS OF AEROSPACE AND FLIGHT TEST
RADIO COORDINATING COUNCIL**

Aerospace and Flight Test Radio Coordinating Council ("AFTRCC"), by its counsel, hereby submits its comments in response to the Commission's *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* in the above-captioned proceeding (the "*NPRM*"), FCC 02-261, released October 7, 2002.¹ In the *NPRM* the Commission seeks comment on a number of different proposals designed to implement various international allocation decisions. AFTRCC focuses these comments on the proposals to eliminate the secondary allocation for flight test telemetry at 1525-1535 MHz, and to downgrade the primary allocation for telemetry at 2320-2345 MHz to secondary status.

AFTRCC is an association of aerospace companies engaged in the design, development, manufacture and testing of commercial and military aircraft, space vehicles, missiles and

¹ A summary of the *NPRM* was published in the Federal Register on December 10, 2002, 67 FK 75967. Comments in response to the *NPRM* are due 60 days after Federal Register publication, or February 10, 2003.

weapons systems. Members of AFTRCC include, in particular, the major U.S. manufacturers of military and commercial aircraft.² AFTRCC is the FCC-recognized advisory committee for coordination of flight test frequencies shared by Government and non-Government users. **See** 47 C.F.R. Section 87.305. AFTRCC works closely with its counterpart Government coordinators in order to ensure prompt, efficient coordination of the flight test frequencies. Thus, AFTRCC is uniquely qualified to comment on the Commission's proposals for the 1525-1535 MHz and 2320-2345 MHz bands and their future use for flight test telemetry.

1525-1535 MHz

AFTRCC does not object to the Commission's proposal to eliminate the secondary allocation for flight test telemetry in the 1525-1535 MHz band. This band is currently allocated for the Mobile Satellite Service on a primary basis. Although flight test telemetry is authorized on a secondary basis, AFTRCC for several years has advised its members to transition operations out of this band. Because flight test operations are mission-critical, and cannot accept the risk of interference that comes with a secondary allocation, AFTRCC's member companies have vacated this portion of the L-band in favor of 1435-1525 MHz, where aeronautical telemetry retains its primary allocation. Because the secondary allocation renders 1525-1535 MHz essentially unusable for flight test telemetry, there is no reason to maintain the secondary allocation.

2320-2345 MHz

Following the 1992 WARC, the 2320-2345 MHz band was reallocated for Satellite Digital Audio Radio ("Satellite DARS"). The primary allocation of the band for mobile and radiolocation services remained in place until Satellite DARS initiated service "in such a manner as to affect or be affected by the mobile and radiolocation services in those service areas." 47

² AFTRCC's members are listed individually in Attachment 1.

C.F.R. Section 2.106, footnote US 328. Footnote US 276 reserves mobile use of this band in the United States for aeronautical telemetry and associated telecommand operations.

As the Commission notes, XM Radio and Sinus have initiated their Satellite SDARS service, thereby meeting the conditions in footnote US 328. *NPRM* at para. 47. The Commission therefore proposes downgrading the primary allocation for telemetry to secondary status, suggesting that flight test operations could continue in the band without causing interference to Satellite DARS reception. *Ibid.* The Commission also seeks comment on whether a secondary allocation, if adopted, should include geographic restrictions, or alternatively whether it should delete the telemetry allocation altogether. *Ibid.* at para. 48.

In proposing a secondary telemetry allocation in the 2320-2345 MHz band, the Commission speaks only of potential interference to Satellite DARS. It does not raise the problem of interference, or the potential for interference, to flight test operations. However, as noted above, aeronautical telemetry is critical for mission and flight safety. Any interference from Satellite DARS to flight test operations poses a risk to safety of life and property, and is unacceptable. Because the affected parties will not use the 2320-2345 MHz band for telemetry as a secondary allocation, AFTRCC interposes no objection to deletion of the telemetry allocation.

Respectfully submitted,

**AEROSPACE AND FLIGHT TEST
RADIO COORDINATING COUNCIL**

By: 

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February 10, 2003

AFTRCC MEMBERS

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Commercial Airplanes
Integrated Defense Systems

Cessna Aircraft Company

Honeywell Engines & Systems

ITT-Gilfillan

Lockheed Martin Corporation
Aeronautics Company
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