

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
LightSquared Subsidiary LLC)	RM-11683
)	
Petition for Rulemaking on Development of)	
Operating Parameters for Terrestrial Use of)	
the 1526-1536 MHz Portion of the L Band)	

COMMENTS OF INMARSAT PLC

Inmarsat plc (“Inmarsat”) submits these comments in support of the Petition for Rulemaking filed by LightSquared Subsidiary LLC (“LightSquared”) on September 28, 2012 and placed on public notice on November 16, 2012.¹ LightSquared’s Petition requests that the Commission initiate a rulemaking proceeding to develop new operating parameters for terrestrial use of the 1526-1536 MHz “downlink” portion of the L-Band, which would then be reflected in revised technical rules.

As the Commission has recognized, there is a significant shortage of spectrum that can be used effectively for mobile broadband applications. Inmarsat believes that the proposed rulemaking proceeding is an appropriate way to develop new technical criteria for the terrestrial use of the 1526-1536 MHz band that would provide suitable assurances to existing spectrum users while also permitting LightSquared to deploy its 4G wireless network in that band segment.

Simply stated, the public interest is best served where parties are able to identify solutions to spectrum controversies that enable spectrum to be used efficiently and effectively. LightSquared’s proposal would facilitate a constructive dialogue to further develop these types of solutions. Initiating the proposed rulemaking process would not pre-

¹ See *Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau Reference Information Center Petitions for Rulemaking Filed*, Report No. 2968 (Nov. 16, 2012).

judge any particular substantive outcome, but would allow all interested stakeholders to provide input and facilitate a more complete understanding of how the 1526-1536 MHz band could be used effectively to support mobile broadband applications. Moreover, any new technical parameters could be transitioned into place over time, with sufficient notice to allow parties to make necessary adjustments. The fact that the process would take several years to complete also would minimize the impact of any substantive rule changes.

Notably, LightSquared's proposal is consistent with the approach to the L Band endorsed by the Commission when it modified LightSquared's ATC authority in a manner consistent with the Cooperation Agreement between Inmarsat and LightSquared. That Cooperation Agreement, which was negotiated at length by the parties: (i) resolved their longstanding spectrum dispute; (ii) resulted in the coordination of their current and next-generation satellite fleets covering North America; (iii) re-banded the L Band into contiguous segments that better support growing broadband needs; and (iv) provided for increased ATC deployment flexibility while at the same time protecting current and future MSS operations. In granting LightSquared modified ATC authority based on that agreement, the Commission acknowledged that such authority would "facilitate continued improvement in the efficiency of spectrum use in the L-Band . . . [which] improvements are necessary to ensure that this resource is available for high-value uses, such as to address critical broadband needs."²

LightSquared's proposal would facilitate similar improvements by further rationalizing use of L-Band spectrum. And it would do so in a way that protects important existing MSS users, consistent with the Cooperation Agreement. Notably, Inmarsat currently employs its L-Band spectrum to provide critical services and capabilities to users in the maritime, aviation, military, public safety, media, energy, and other sectors. Inmarsat's customer base includes many U.S. Government and emergency preparedness users, as well as

² See *SkyTerra Subsidiary LLC*, 25 FCC Rcd 3043, at ¶ 31 (2010).

maritime and aviation users who rely on Inmarsat's essential safety-of-life services. Moreover, Inmarsat's MSS network increasingly supports nascent applications in the smart grid, disaster relief and rural healthcare sectors, as well as rural telephony and data services. Significantly, LightSquared's current proposal would alleviate some of the transition challenges that Inmarsat had previously faced in the context of planning for the LightSquared network implementation under the full ATC authority granted by the Commission.

For these reasons, Inmarsat urges the Commission to issue a notice of proposed rulemaking to commence a proceeding consistent with LightSquared's Petition. Such a proceeding would encourage a constructive dialogue among interested stakeholders as well as facilitate informed and reasoned decision-making by the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Diane J. Cornell

Diane J. Cornell
Vice President, Government Affairs
INMARSAT, INC.
1101 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 248-5150

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Curleen Brothers, hereby certify that on this 17th day of December, 2012, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing “Comments of Inmarsat plc” to be served upon the following, via first-class mail, postage prepaid:

Jeffrey J. Carlisle
Executive Vice President, Regulatory Affairs and Public Policy
LIGHTSQUARED SUBSIDIARY LLC
10802 Parkridge Boulevard
Reston, VA 20191

/s/ Curleen Brothers
Curleen Brothers