

Intelsat also remains subject to intense competition in the market for communications services from terrestrial sources, such as fiber optic cable, broadband-enabled IP applications and terrestrial wireless platforms. Since privatization, Intelsat has responded, and will continue to respond, to these competitive market forces.

Respectfully submitted,

Intelsat LLC

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Before the  
**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
 Washington, D.C. 20554

In the matter of	)	
	)	
Report to Congress Regarding	)	IB Docket No. 09-48
the ORBIT Act	)	

**REPLY COMMENTS OF INMARSAT PLC**

Inmarsat plc (“Inmarsat”) submits these Reply Comments in response to the Public Notice inviting input to be reflected in the Commission’s progress report to Congress on implementing the Open-Market Reorganization for the Betterment of International Telecommunications Act (the “ORBIT Act”).<sup>1</sup> The purpose of the ORBIT Act is to “promote a fully competitive global market for satellite communications services for the benefit of consumers and providers of satellite services and equipment by fully privatizing...INTELSAT and Inmarsat.”<sup>2</sup>

Inmarsat converted from an intergovernmental organization (“IGO”) to a private company in 1999 in a manner that was ORBIT Act-compliant.<sup>3</sup> In June 2005, the Commission found that Inmarsat had satisfied the requirement to effectuate a substantial dilution of former Signatory financial interests in the company.<sup>4</sup> Just days later, Inmarsat reduced former signatory and foreign government ownership even further, by completing one of the most successful equity IPOs by a satellite services company. Today, Inmarsat’s shares are traded on the London Stock

<sup>1</sup> Public Notice, Report No. SPB-230, DA 09-742 (rel. Apr. 1, 2009).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 1; see also ORBIT Act, Pub. L. No. 106-180, 114 Stat 48, §2 (2000)

<sup>3</sup> See *Cosat Corp. d/b/a Cosat Mobile Communications et al.* 16 FCC Rcd 21661 (2001)(“Cosat”).

<sup>4</sup> *Inmarsat Group Holdings Limited, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Pursuant to Section 621(5)(F) of the ORBIT Act*, 20 FCC Rcd 11366 (2005).

Exchange and no former Inmarsat Signatory owns five percent or more of the company and the aggregate ownership by foreign governments is nominal.

Inmarsat, in an effort to respond to aggressive, highly competitive market forces, has continued to invest in new technologies for the diverse customer base who utilizes satellite services. Over the last several years, Inmarsat has invested well over \$1.5 billion in the deployment of its fourth-generation, Inmarsat 4 ("I-4") satellite network, which is today providing innovative satellite services to the United States and globally on one of the most advanced mobile commercial communications satellites now in orbit. In 2008, Inmarsat launched the third of its fourth generation satellites, the I4F3, completing world-wide coverage for our broadband capabilities, including Broadband Global Area Network (BGAN). After the successful launch of the I4F3, Inmarsat undertook a major satellite fleet repositioning process that is now providing more efficient coverage for Inmarsat users.<sup>5</sup> In addition, Inmarsat completed construction of and was granted Commission authorization for a Satellite Access Station in Paumalu, Hawaii to connect user terminal traffic to the public switched network and the Internet.<sup>6</sup>

In order to remain competitive in the dynamic market for satellite services, Inmarsat's I-4 fleet has been designed and adapted to support a new class of novel IP-based communications, including BGAN service. Using highly portable and easily deployed "notebook sized" antennas that are one-third the size, weight, and price of traditional Inmarsat terminals, BGAN provides voice and broadband service at speeds of almost half a megabit per second. In 2007, Inmarsat

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<sup>5</sup> See, Inmarsat Press Release, Inmarsat Broadband Goes Global (Feb. 26, 2009) announcing completion of global coverage for Inmarsat broadband services.

<sup>6</sup> See, File No. SES-LIC-20080306-00242, Call Sign E080059 (granted Dec. 18, 2008); File No. SES-MFS-20080228-00207, Call Sign KA 25 (granted Dec. 18, 2008).

launched companion BGAN services for aeronautical and maritime customers, known as SwiftBroadband and FleetBroadband and continues to improve service for its customers. Inmarsat will soon introduce world-wide Global Satellite Phone Service (GSPS) over its I-4 geostationary fleet with a modernized handset. This device is being optimized to operate over the I-4 network and is expected to be available in the United States in 2010.

At the same time, Inmarsat continues to provide innovative and reliable services for its aeronautical, maritime and land users. In February 2009, European carrier Ryanair joined other carriers and began offering GSM mobile phone service on several of its aircraft to passengers in the cabin using Inmarsat services for the link to the ground.<sup>7</sup> Also in February 2009, Inmarsat service was used to repel pirates who tried to attack a bulk carrier in the Indian Ocean by allowing the ship to alert naval units in the vicinity as well as to provide piracy warnings in order to alert ships to incidents in the area.<sup>8</sup> This month, in response to demand from broadcasters, Inmarsat announced the enhancement of land BGAN service to provide access to the world's fastest mobile video streaming by satellite.<sup>9</sup>

Most recently, on April 14, 2009, the last vestige of Inmarsat's IGO legacy came to an end with the expiration of Inmarsat's prior distribution arrangements, which favored the businesses established by former Signatories. Inmarsat has now entered into new, long-term arrangements that will enable all distributors of its services to compete on an even footing. Moreover, Inmarsat has completed the acquisition of the shares of Stratos Global Corporation,

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<sup>7</sup> See, Inmarsat News, Ryanair to Relay Passenger Mobile Phone Calls via Inmarsat (Feb. 19, 2009).

<sup>8</sup> See, Inmarsat News, Pirates Thwarted Thanks to Inmarsat C (Feb. 13, 2009).

<sup>9</sup> See, Inmarsat News, BGAN X-Stream Delivers Fastest Video Streaming (Apr. 20, 2009) announcing launch of BGAN X-Stream service offering video streaming rates of up to 450kbps.

thereby providing Inmarsat with the same type of mature retail distribution arm that its satellite operator competitors currently enjoy.

Inmarsat respectfully submits the above information to assist the Commission in preparing its forthcoming report to Congress.

Respectfully submitted,

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