

Orbital Sciences Cygnus Spacecraft

FCC OET File Number 0136-EX-ST-2012
Response to FCC/NTIA Questions

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- **What ground stations will be used for the Cygnus missions?**
- The Cygnus spacecraft will use two ground stations:
 - NASA Wallops 37.9455° -75.4611° 18.51 m
 - Telecommand uplink and Telemetry downlink
 - Fucino Italy 41.8605° 13.6032° 709.4 m
 - Telemetry downlink only



- **If first spacecraft launch is not until 4th quarter of 2012, why is license being submitted such that it will expire before then?**
- Orbital has applied for the STA early to ensure adequate review time for NASA, the NTIA and the FCC well in advance of any launch deadlines. Orbital was unsure how long the application and approval process would take and also wanted to ensure that the approval process could accommodate any reasonable, foreseeable, acceleration of the initial launch date. However, to more closely track the current launch schedule, Orbital would not object to a grant that specifies a later date for the beginning of the STA six-month period than what was requested in the original STA application. For example, an initial STA term that began on 1 July 2012 and ran through 31 December 2012 would be consistent with Orbital's requirements. Although this delay in the commencement of the requested STA period is acceptable, Orbital requests that the FCC continue to process the STA request on an expedited basis so that Orbital can meet its contractual obligations with respect to licensing for the Cygnus program. Timely action on the STA request will also allow Orbital to provide its customer (NASA) with assurance that the radio frequency operations can proceed as planned. In contrast, delayed action on the pending STA request will lead to uncertainty regarding the program that would be harmful to both Orbital and NASA.