

Request for Experimental Authority

Iridium Satellite LLC (“Iridium”) seeks experimental special temporary authority (“STA”) to transmit in the 1618.725-1626.5 MHz band from its space stations¹ in the manner described below in connection with the smallsat Winnebago-3, a spacecraft operated by Rocket Lab USA, which is scheduled to be launched no earlier than February 1, 2025.

Iridium requests that its STA have a term of six months beginning February 1, 2025. Iridium asks that the license be issued by December 1, 2024, to satisfy the requirements of the launch integrators.

As stated in Rocket Lab USA’s application for Winnebago-3,² following on orbit tests the Winnebago-3 mission will culminate with the reentry of a small spacecraft capsule (0.9 meter diameter), that will make a terrestrial landing under parachutes at the Koonibba Test Range (KTR) in South Australia. An Iridium transceiver modem (model 9602) will communicate with the Iridium constellation from the return capsule after it separates and until it lands.

There will be no change during the experiment in the operating parameters of Iridium’s space stations, which are licensed as Part 25 space stations under Call Sign S2110. For this reason, no operating parameters, other than effective radiated power and emission designator, are used in the form that this exhibit accompanies. The only change for which Iridium seeks an authority is adding the Winnebago-3 spacecraft capsule as a point of communication. Iridium’s Part 25 space station license does not cover space-to-space communications.

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¹ Iridium’s constellation is comprised of 66 satellites, any one of which may be used as part of the experiment at any point in time.

² See Application for Authority to Launch and Operate Winnebago-3, OET File No. 1011-EX-ST-2024, filed May 23, 2024.