

**CUI//PRVCY//PROPIN//FEDCON**

Licensee Exempt from CUI Handling and Dissemination Restrictions



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

Office of Space Commerce  
Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20230

May 22, 2024

Mr. Jack Ackohen  
Program Manager  
Astro-Digital  
3047 Orchard Pkwy  
San Jose, CA 95134

via: jack@astrodigital.com

**RE: NOAA Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs License Inquiry**

Dear Mr. Ackohen:

Pursuant to 15 CFR § 960.5(a), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs (CRSRA) office has reviewed your Initial Contact Form, submitted on May 21, 2024, concerning your proposed Sphinx private remote sensing space system. Under the authority of the Secretary of Commerce under 51 U.S.C. § 60121 *et seq.* and 15 CFR Part 960, delegated to NOAA, we have determined that the proposed system as described in your Initial Contact Form will not require a NOAA license.

This determination was made based on the fact that your system's remote sensing instrument is a self-imaging camera used to monitor the deployment mechanism and deployed experimental deorbiting device; therefore, it is used primarily for mission assurance purposes and is exempt from the licensing requirement under 15 C.F.R. § 960.2(b).

If the factual circumstances of the information provided change, please submit a new Initial Contact Form, as you may require a license based on the changes. Additionally, please contact CRSRA with any future systems you may plan to operate in order to obtain a licensing determination on that specific system and its mission.

Please refer any questions regarding this determination to Frank Rostan at 301-520-5202 or by email at CRSRA@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Sarah C. Brothers, Ph.D.  
Director, Commercial Remote  
Sensing Regulatory Affairs

cc: Glenn Tallia, NOAA GC

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