

Request for Experimental Authority

Iridium Satellite LLC (“Iridium”) seeks an experimental license to transmit in the 1618.725-1626.5 MHz band from its space stations¹ to the smallsat RAPSat-1 operated by NearSpace Launch, Inc. (“NearSpace”).

Iridium requests that its application be granted for a period of two years beginning February 13, 2025. Iridium requests that the license be issued by December 30, 2024, to satisfy the requirements of the launch integrators.

Iridium seeks this license as a companion to the NearSpace application for RAPSat-1² which will be comprised of three satellites: RAPSat-1A, RAPSat-1B, and RAPSat-1C and which will demonstrate the RAPSat (Rapid Agile Production of ThinSats) platform on orbit. The RAPSat-1 smallsat will be dispensed from SpaceX’s TSIS-2 launch vehicle and then separated into the three separate spacecraft seven days later. Transmission will begin 30 minutes after this separation, via Iridium transceiver modems (model 9603) which will communicate with the Iridium constellation, and will cease after completion of the mission two years later. Two transceivers are installed on each satellite for a total of six transceivers, however, one will act as a spare so only one transceiver per satellite will operate at any one time.

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 RAPSAT-1 spacecraft as points 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 NearSpace Launch, Inc., Application for Authority to Launch and Operate RAPSAT-1, OET File No. 0935-EX-CN-2024, filed Sept. 30, 2024.