November 5, 2024

Vadim Limar (628) 239-0200 vl@bringo.net

VIA ELS

Marlene H. Dortch Secretary Federal Communications Commission 45 L Street NE Washington, DC 20554

Re: In re Bringo Inc. Application for Authority to Conduct Experimental Operations and Market Trials, ELS File No. 1062-EX-CN-2024

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Commission's rules,¹ Bringo Inc. ("Bringo") respectfully requests that the Narrative of this application be afforded confidential treatment and not be placed in the Commission's public files. The information in the Narrative qualifies as "commercial or financial information" that "would customarily be guarded from competitors" regardless of whether such materials are protected from disclosure by a privilege. The information is closely held by Bringo, is not available to the public, and is not revealed except under cover of confidentiality.³ The disclosure of Bringo's testing and trials to advance high-frequency hardware, software, and transmission technologies contained in the Narrative would cause Bringo substantial competitive harm.⁴ The Narrative is accordingly marked with the header, "SUBJECT TO REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT – NOT FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION." Bringo therefore requests that the Commission not "permit the inspection" of the Narrative.⁵

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 $^{^{1}}$ 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457 and 0.459.

² See, e.g., James A. Kay, Jr., Decision, 17 FCC Rcd 1834, ¶ 23 (2002) (withholding such information from public inspection).

³ See 47 C.F.R. § 0.457(d); Critical Mass Energy Project v. NRC, 975 F.2d 871, 879 (D.C. Cir. 1992) ("[W]e conclude that financial or commercial information provided to the Government on a voluntary basis is 'confidential' for the purpose of Exemption 4 if it is of a kind that would customarily not be released to the public by the person from whom it was obtained.").

⁴ See Food Mktg. Inst. v. Argus Leader Media, 139 S. Ct. 2356, 2363 (2019).

⁵ 47 C.F.R. § 0.451.

In support of this request and pursuant to Section 0.459(b) of the Commission's rules,⁶ Bringo hereby states as follows:

1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR WHICH CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT IS SOUGHT⁷

Bringo seeks confidential treatment for the entire scope, specifications, and objectives of the experiments and market trials to be conducted under this application, as described in the Narrative.

2. DESCRIPTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES GIVING RISE TO THE SUBMISSION⁸

Bringo submits this Narrative to the Commission to assist in the review of the pending experimental license application, where Bringo requests to conduct experimental tests of high-frequency hardware, software, and transmission technologies.

3. EXPLANATION OF THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE INFORMATION IS COMMERCIAL OR FINANCIAL, OR IS PRIVILEGED⁹

The information for which Bringo seeks confidential treatment contains sensitive commercial information relating to testing and refining equipment and software. The Narrative also contains sensitive information about technical specifications of the antennas as well as business and testing strategies that is not disclosed to the public. Bringo treats this information as highly confidential and guards against its disclosure to third parties.

4. EXPLANATION OF THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE INFORMATION CONCERNS A SERVICE THAT IS SUBJECT TO COMPETITION¹⁰

The market for high frequency communications is innovative, fast-developing, and competitive. Bringo's business developing communication modes and equipment that enhance the performance elements of high frequency communications is subject to competition from other device, software, and network developers.

⁶ 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b).

⁷ 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(1).

⁸ 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(2).

⁹ 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(3).

¹⁰ 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(4).

5. EXPLANATION OF HOW DISCLOSURE OF THE INFORMATION COULD RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL COMPETITIVE HARM¹¹

Competitors could use the information in the Narrative to Bringo's detriment in the market. Disclosure could permit competitors to gain access to information regarding Bringo's strategies to test and refine Bringo's communication systems and market models. Knowledge of Bringo's technologies and specifications of its testing plan would allow competitors to infer or confirm information about Bringo's technology and business strategy, of which they are currently unaware or uncertain, and could jeopardize Bringo's competitive position.

6. IDENTIFICATION OF ANY MEASURES TAKEN BY THE SUBMITTING PARTY TO PREVENT UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE¹²

Bringo strictly limits access to information about the technologies and test plans described in the Narrative. Bringo has made the substance of the Narrative known only to those employees who have a need to know the subject matter, and those employees are aware of the confidential and sensitive nature of the information. Bringo does not provide this information to communications companies or any other party in the ordinary course of business.

7. IDENTIFICATION OF WHETHER THE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AND THE EXTENT OF ANY PREVIOUS DISCLOSURE OF THE INFORMATION TO THIRD PARTIES¹³

Information about Bringo's technologies and test plans disclosed in the Narrative is not publicly available.

8. JUSTIFICATION OF THE PERIOD DURING WHICH THE SUBMITTING PARTY ASSERTS THAT MATERIAL SHOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE¹⁴

Bringo requests that the proprietary information be withheld from disclosure for an indefinite period, at a minimum the entire duration of the experimental license. The testing and trials require confidentiality while they are underway so Bringo may develop its communication technologies and business strategies without disclosing these developments and strategies to competitors.

¹¹ 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(5).

¹² 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(6).

¹³ 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(7).

¹⁴ 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(8).

9. OTHER INFORMATION THAT BRINGO BELIEVES MAY BE USEFUL IN ASSESSING WHETHER ITS REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIALITY SHOULD BE GRANTED¹⁵

The timing and progress of Bringo's product research and development process and its ability to maintain the confidentiality of its test plans will substantially contribute to Bringo's commercial success. The premature disclosure of Bringo's innovative technologies and test plan information, as described in the Narrative, would harm the competitive position of Bringo.

Denial of Bringo's request would impair the Commission's ability to obtain this type of voluntarily disclosed information in the future, hindering the agency's application review process. Encouraging cooperation with the government by parties having information useful to officials and enhancing a government agency's ability to obtain confidential information are the legislative intent for developing exemptions from the Freedom of Information Act. ¹⁶ The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit has recognized a "private interest in preserving the confidentiality of information that is provided to the Government on a voluntary basis." ¹⁷

For the foregoing reasons, Bringo respectfully asks the Commission to authorize confidential treatment for the Narrative. If the Commission denies this request for confidentiality, Bringo requests that the Commission return the material without consideration. 18

Please direct any questions to me.

Respectfully submitted,

Vadim Limar Tel (628) 239-0200 vl@bringo.net

Bringo Inc.

¹⁵ 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(9).

¹⁶ See Critical Mass Energy Project v. NRC, 975 F.2d 871, 878 (D.C. Cir. 1992) ("Where, however, the information is provided to the Government voluntarily, the presumption is that [the Government's] interest will be threatened by disclosure as the persons whose confidences have been betrayed will, in all likelihood, refuse further cooperation."); see also Ctr. for Auto Safety v. Nat'l Highway Traffic Safety Admin., 244 F.3d 144, 147-48 (D.C. Cir. 2001).

¹⁷ Critical Mass Energy Project, 975 F.2d at 879.

¹⁸ 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(e).