



PUBLIC NOTICE

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DA 14-327

Released: March 10, 2014

WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU EXTENDS PERIOD TO FILE REPLY COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RULES TO EXPAND ACCESS TO MOBILE WIRELESS SERVICES ONBOARD AIRCRAFT

WT Docket No. 13-301

Reply Comment Date: May 16, 2014

By this *Public Notice*, we extend the deadline for filing reply comments in response to the *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in the above-captioned proceeding to allow parties to more thoroughly address the technical issues raised in the *Notice* and in the record.¹ Interested parties now will have until May 16, 2014, to file reply comments.²

On February 28, 2014, AeroMobile Communications Limited (“AeroMobile”) and Panasonic Avionics Corporation (“Panasonic”), jointly, and CTIA – The Wireless Association (“CTIA”) filed requests to extend the reply comment deadline in response to the *Notice* by 60 days, to May 16, 2014.³ The Joint Motion and the CTIA Request contend that this extension is warranted for parties to properly address the complicated technological, legal, and policy issues raised by the *Notice* and the initial comments.⁴ The Joint Motion and the CTIA request also assert that the additional time will provide various stakeholders – including AeroMobile, Panasonic, and CTIA – ample opportunity to consult with each other on technical issues.⁵

Specifically, the Joint Motion states that more time is necessary for consultations regarding “the technical studies and authorization regime supporting in-flight mobile communications in Europe and

¹ Expanding Access to Mobile Wireless Services Onboard Aircraft, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 28 FCC Red 17132 (2013) (“*Notice*”).

² The *Notice* sets forth a reply-comment date of 60 days after date of publication in the Federal Register. *Id.* The *Notice* was published on January 15, 2014, and reply comments were originally due on March 17, 2014. See <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/01/15/2013-31203/expanding-access-to-mobile-wireless-services-onboard-aircraft>.

³ AeroMobile Communications Limited and Panasonic Avionics Corporation, Joint Motion for Extension of Time, WT Docket No. 13-301 (filed Feb. 28, 2014) (“Joint Motion”); CTIA – The Wireless Association, Request for Extension of Reply Comment Deadline, WT Docket No. 13-301 (filed Feb. 28, 2014) (“CTIA Request”).

⁴ See Joint Motion at 1; CTIA Request 1.

⁵ See Joint Motion at 1-2; CTIA Request 2.

elsewhere.”⁶ The Joint Motion also notes that an extension of time would “enable interested parties to consider comments submitted in other proceedings, including the Department of Transportation Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on voice services onboard aircraft.”⁷

The CTIA Request similarly states that an extension is needed so that parties can “conduct much needed interference and other technological analyses, consider other existing studies beyond those discussed in the *Notice*, and follow up on questions and issues sparked by commenters who discussed the inflight systems that have been deployed abroad.”⁸ The CTIA Request also notes the large number of comments that have been filed in the docket, stating that “[t]he Commission should strive to ensure that the record contains a meaningful opportunity to contribute input into this highly watched rulemaking.”⁹

It is the general policy of the Commission that extensions of time shall not be routinely granted.¹⁰ However, under these circumstances, we agree that an extension of time to file reply comments is warranted to ensure that the Commission obtains a complete and thorough technical record in response to the *Notice*. The *Notice* specifically sought comment on technological solutions that may enable interference-free operation of wireless devices aboard airborne aircraft, and requested that commenters provide technical analysis in support of their comments. We conclude that a short extension of time is warranted to enable interested parties sufficient opportunity to review and respond to the complex technical issues raised by the *Notice*. Accordingly, pursuant to Section 4(i) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,¹¹ and Section 1.46 of the Commission's rules,¹² we extend the deadline for filing reply comments until May 16, 2014.

For further information, please contact Amanda Huetinck of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Mobility Division, at (202) 418-7090 or Amanda.Huetinck@fcc.gov.

Action by the Chief, Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

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⁶ Joint Motion at 2.

⁷ Joint Motion at 2.

⁸ CTIA Request 2.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ 47 C.F.R. § 1.46(a).

¹¹ 47 U.S.C. § 154(i).

¹² 47 C.F.R. § 1.46.