ATTACHMENT

**3.7 GHz TRANSITION PRELIMINARY COST CATEGORY SCHEDULE OF POTENTIAL EXPENSES AND ESTIMATED COSTS**

April 27, 2020

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# About This Catalog

This cost category schedule (Catalog) contains descriptions of the potential expenses and estimated costs that (1) incumbent space station operators and incumbent earth station operators may incur as a result of the required transition out of the 3700-4000 MHz band into the 4000-4200 MHz band in the contiguous United States[[1]](#footnote-3) and (2) that Fixed Service operators may incur as a result of transitioning out of the entire 3700-4200 MHz (C-band) into one of the following bands: 5925 – 6425 MHz; 6525 – 6875 MHz; 6875 – 7125 MHz; 10,700 – 11,700 MHz; 17,700 – 18,300 MHz; 19,300 – 19,700 MHz; and 21,200 – 23,600 MHz. While we believe the Catalog is relatively comprehensive, it does not cover every expense, for every situation, nor is it an exhaustive list of all expenses that may potentially qualify for reimbursement.

RKF Engineering Solutions LLC assisted with developing this Catalog after the release of the Commission’s *Order* in March 2020. This Catalog is subject to the provisions of the *Order* and the rules adopted therein.[[2]](#footnote-4) To the extent there are any discrepancies between the requirements adopted in the *Order* or the relevant rules and this Catalog, the *Order* and the rules govern. The categories and costs contained in the Catalog are intended to serve as a reference guide and are not intended to identify the specific reimbursable expenses incurred by individual satellite, earth station, and fixed service operators.

Individual operators may incur only some of the expenses listed in the Catalog, depending upon the operator’s existing equipment and the particular transition changes that the entity must make. Some of the expenses will apply only in limited situations, such as, for example, satellite operators that only need to move a service from the lower 300 megahertz of the C-band to the upper 200 megahertz.

Supply and demand constraints may impact future costs.

# II. Satellite Operator Costs

The transition will require eligible space station operators to incur new capital costs and short-term operating expenditures. Reimbursable space station operator costs are limited to the actual relocation costs, as long as they are not unreasonable, associated with clearing the lower 300 megahertz of the band while ensuring continued operations for their customers.[[3]](#footnote-5) Thus, reimbursable costs could include all reasonable engineering, equipment, site, and FCC fees, as well as any reasonable, additional costs that eligible space station operators serving earth stations in the contiguous United States may incur as a result of relocation.[[4]](#footnote-6)

## Expected Cost to Repack Existing Satellites

Clearing the lower 300 megahertz will entail ensuring that current services offered across 500 megahertz of the 3700-4200 MHz band, which do not utilize the full capacity, are efficiently transitioned to the upper 200 megahertz. Most of this clearing effort is operator labor, so a range of costs for this labor is provided in Table II-A-1 below on a per satellite basis inclusive of load balancing.

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| Table II-A-1: Satellite Repacking | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| Engineering and Execution Labor | 150,000 – 350,000 |

## In-orbit Delivery of New Satellite(s)

While some satellite operators may be able to transition their operations above 4000 MHz with existing satellite capacity, some operators may need to launch additional satellites to complete the transition. The following table includes the expected range for total sum of costs for the in-orbit operational delivery of satellite(s). The costs are inclusive of spacecraft, launch, financing, mission operation, spacecraft-specific ground costs, program management/oversight, and insurance. Costs are broken out by a single launch or a shared launch.

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| Table II-B-1: Expected Total Costs for Satellite(s) delivered in-orbit | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| 2 tandem launched C-Band space satellites | 240M – 768M |
| 1 single launched C-Band satellite | 120M – 450M |

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In section II-B above and in section II-C below, the low estimates are based upon satellite operator procurement of multiple, identical launch vehicles, where spacecraft are assumed to be standard C-band payloads with minimal spacecraft redundancy to satisfy basic mission objectives and an adequate number of amplifiers to clear the 300 megahertz of spectrum per satellite operator requirements. High estimates assume a significantly accelerated build/launch timeline to offer satellite operators the ability to begin testing and verification of ground relocation equipment over the satellite in under 24 months and/or the potential to “backstop” other satellite builds as a fail-safe to delays. High estimates also assume additional technical spacecraft margins for reliability and redundancy and propulsion systems that accommodate rapid mission transfers to final orbital positions.

## Space Segment Cost Breakout

In this section, the costs from Table II-B-1 are broken down further to account for the individual satellite procurement, launch, and financing.

### Spacecraft

The table below presents the costs associated with building a new satellite.

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| Table II-C-1: Satellite Procurement of 1 satellite | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| 1 C-band satellite for replacement/diversification | 89M – 205M |
| Satellite Procurement Program Management (per satellite) | 5M – 8M |

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### Launch Costs

Cost of launches for the replacement satellites varies greatly. Contributions to this range include reusability of the rocket, development of multi-satellite stacks for the rockets, and the launch-on-demand requirements for meeting the timelines.

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| Table II-C-2: Launch Costs | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| Launch per Satellite (Dual Launch) | 36M – 83M |
| Launch per Satellite (Single Launch) | 63M – 104M |

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### Other Potential Costs

Other potential costs include financing (spacecraft and/or launch), insurance, legal, and supplemental engineering. Satellite operators may seek reimbursement for the costs of acquiring financing for clearing costs that are directly attributable to relocation. The estimated costs below are on a per satellite basis.

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| Table II-C-3: Consulting Fees | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| Satellite System Engineering Planning | 25,000 – 75,000 |
| Coordination of new satellite | 35,000 – 125,000 |

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| Table II-C-4: Attorney Fees | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| Prepare and File FCC Forms | 1,500 – 5,000 |
| Prepare and File ITU Forms | 5,000 – 20,000 |

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| Table II-C-5: Filing Fees | Estimated Cost ($) |
| FCC Satellite Application Filing Fee | 136,930 |

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| Table II-C-6: Finance & Insurance | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| Cost to Finance Satellite | 3.5M – 11M |
| Cost to Finance Launch | 2M – 5M |
| Insurance | 15M – 30M |

## Relocation Program Management

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| Table II-D-1: Program Management | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| Cost to Manage Satellite Relocation Program | 200,000 – 400,000 |

# III. Earth Station Migration and Filtering Costs

Earth station transitions may vary widely depending on the actions of the satellite operator, the age of the earth station, its location and use, and other factors. Earth station filtering will be a uniform migration task necessary to prevent interference from flexible-use operations below 3980 MHz. Beyond that, the transition may consist of expenses such as retuning or repointing an earth station, up to and including replacement of equipment that cannot be reasonably transitioned (e.g., replacing receivers, amplifiers, or other equipment that due to age or other factors must be replaced to allow the transition).

The satellite operator is expected to transition its services in the lower 300 megahertz to the upper 200 megahertz of the 3700-4200 MHz band. This effort would entail frequency planning, coordination with the earth station operators on the move timing and logistics, and the purchase and installation of passband filters in all primary and redundant earth station receive paths. Note that although the satellite operator would also perform analyses of optimum carrier assignment for the frequency move to include carrier-to-interference ratio (C/I) analysis, potential increases in effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP), satellite power availability, and other radio frequency (RF) performance factors, these analyses are included in the repacking modification costs detailed in Table II-A-1. This section details expenses satellite operators might incur from coordination with earth station operators.

Earth station migration includes any necessary changes that will allow the earth stations to receive C-band services throughout the transition period and after the applicable relocation deadline when satellite operators will have relocated their services into the upper portion of the band.

## Filtering/Retuning/Repointing

First, we address the costs associated with a simple filtering, retuning, or repointing of various earth stations because we believe the majority of earth stations can be migrated through these simple mechanisms. However, below in section B, we address the costs for more complex and expensive migrations that will involve replacing equipment or migrating complex gateway facilities.

Tables III-A-1 and III-A-2 outline costs for filtering, retuning, and repointing earth stations.

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| Table III-A-1: Retuning to Frequency in 4.0-4.2 GHz | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| Replace Passband Filter | 400 – 900 |
| Passband Filter Installation (for two low-noise block converters [LNBs]) | 300 – 1,100 |
| C-band Phase Locked Loop (PLL) LNB | 500 – 1,100 |
| Perform Retuning | 400 – 700 |
| Acquisition of Ladder or Bucket Truck | 500 – 5,500 |
| Retrofit a Dual-feed onto a Single-feed Antenna | 1,000 – 2,200 |
| Retrofit a Triple-feed onto a Single-feed Antenna | 1,500 – 3,300 |
| Fiber Transmitter | 1,500 – 2,800 |
| Fiber Receiver | 1,500 – 2,800 |
| Fiber Optic Chassis | 1,500 – 3,300 |
| Chassis Frame Controller | 1,000 – 2,200 |

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| Table III-A-2: Repointing to a Different Satellite | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| Perform Repointing | 400 – 1,000 |
| Uplink Filter | 500 – 1,500 |
| Low Noise Amplifier/Block Downconverter | 250 – 600 |
| Upgrade/Change Polarization | 300 – 600 |
| Install a portable or trailer-mounted antenna | 2,000 – 3,300 |
| Filter for Seeded Antenna | 400 – 900 |
| Filter Installation in Seeded Antenna | 600 – 1,100 |
| Filter Installation in Spare Antenna (if seeding antenna is not needed) | 600 – 1,100 |
| Initiate operations via dual illumination (with seeded and spare antenna) | 500 – 12,000 |
| Replace Cabling from Antenna to Headend | 1,000 – 2,200 |
| Travel Costs for Rural, Mountainous, Hard-to-Reach Areas (per trip) | 150 – 1,500 |
| Labor Fee for Installations or Emergency Situations (per hour) | 300 – 800 |
| Planning for Dual Illumination | 10,000 – 30,000 |
| Dual Illumination of Transponder | 10,000 – 24,000 |

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| Table III-A-3: Gateway - RF Uplink Chain | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| *RF Uplink Chain for Limited Motion Antenna Configuration* |  |
| Solid State Power Amplifier  Note: 2 polarizations required | 75,000 – 340,000 |
| Block Upconverter (BUC) | 35,000 – 45,000 |
| Fiber System | 45,000 – 55,000 |
| RF Distribution | 25,000 – 35,000 |
| *RF Uplink for Extended/Full Performance Antenna Configuration* |  |
| Travelling Wave Tube Amplifier | 75,000 – 260,000 |
| BUC | 35,000 – 45,000 |
| Fiber System | 25,000 – 35,000 |
| RF Distribution | 25,000 – 35,000 |

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| Table III-A-4: Gateway - RF Downlink Chain | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| *RF Downlink Chain for Limited Motion Antenna Configuration* |  |
| Block Downconverter (BDC) | 35,000 – 45,000 |
| Fiber System | 45,000 – 55,000 |
| RF Distribution | 15,000 – 25,000 |
| *RF Downlink Chain for Limited Motion Antenna Receive Only Configuration* |  |
| Fiber System | 45,000 – 55,000 |
| RF Distribution | 15,000 – 25,000 |
| *RF Downlink Chain for Extended/Full Performance Antenna Configuration* |  |
| BDC | 35,000 – 45,000 |
| Fiber System | 45,000 – 55,000 |
| RF Distribution | 15,000 – 25,000 |

## Equipment Costs

The earth station migration and filtering costs vary based on the type of earth station. The following tables include equipment costs for receive-only earth stations (single feed and multi-feed), bi-directional earth stations (e.g. transmit-receive), and temporary fixed earth stations. In most instances, the existing equipment will continue to be usable and not eligible for reimbursement if replaced, but in many instances, one or more of these basic components may need to be replaced to facilitate the transition.

### Receive-only Earth Stations

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| Table III-B-1: Receive Only Earth Station Equipment | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| *Single-Feed System* |  |
| 3.7m Antenna with a single-feed system 2 PLL LNBs Pipe mount hardware Installation and Instruction manuals (per unit) | 4,000 – 6,600 |
| 4.2m Antenna with a single-feed system 2 PLL LNBs Pipe mount hardware Installation and Instruction manuals (per unit) | 8,000 – 12,000 |
| 4.5m Antenna with a single-feed system 2 PLL LNBs Pipe mount hardware Installation and Instruction manuals (per unit) | 9,000 – 16,400 |
| *Dual-feed System* |  |
| 3.7m Antenna with a dual-feed system 4 PLL LNBs Pipe mount hardware Installation and Instruction manuals (per unit) | 5,000 – 7,700 |
| 4.2m Antenna with a dual-feed system 4 PLL LNBs Pipe mount hardware Installation and Instruction manuals (per unit) | 9,000 – 13,100 |
| 4.5m Antenna with a dual-feed system 4 PLL LNBs Pipe mount hardware Installation and Instruction manuals (per unit) | 10,000 – 17,500 |
| *Triple-feed System* |  |
| 3.7m Antenna with a triple-feed system 4 PLL LNBs Pipe mount hardware Installation and Instruction manuals (per unit) | 5,500 – 8,200 |
| 4.2m Antenna with a triple-feed system 6 PLL LNBs Pipe mount hardware Installation and Instruction manuals (per unit) | 9,500 – 13,700 |
| 4.5m Antenna with a triple-feed system 4 PLL LNBs Pipe mount hardware Installation and Instruction manuals (per unit) | 10,500 – 18,000 |
| *Supporting Equipment* |  |
| Antenna Installation or Move with Foundation (includes foundation materials, equipment rental and logistics/freight) | 5,000 – 17,000 |
| C-band Feedhorn Replacement | 150 – 600 |
| C-band Feedhorn Installation (for single, dual, or triple-feed) | 300 – 600 |
| Additional Cable & Other Spare Equipment for Install (cable length dependent) | 500 – 3,300 |
| Shipment of Antenna Equipment (size of antenna and shipping distance dependent) | 500 – 5,500 |
| Trenching for Cable for Antenna Installation (if needed) | 1,000 – 2,200 |
| Mount Upgrade Options | 1,000 – 1,700 |
| Snow Cover (3.7M) | 500 – 1,100 |
| De-Icing System | 4,000 – 6,600 |

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| Table III-B-2: Receive Only - Near Full-arc Multibeam Antenna Equipment | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| *Small Antenna: Reflector Replacement* |  |
| Replace Reflector | 70,000 – 80,000 |
| Cable Junction Box | 2,000 – 2,500 |
| Full Reflector Heating System | 20,000 – 25,000 |
| Lightning Kit | 1,000 – 1,500 |
| Reflector Installation | 9,000 – 10,500 |
| *Small Antenna: Complete System* |  |
| Small Reflector and Standard Mount | 125,000 – 140,000 |
| Foundation Kit | 2,000 – 2,500 |
| C-band Dual Polarity Feed Assembly (per feed) | 1,500 – 2,500 |
| C-Band PLL LNB (per feed) | 500 – 1,100 |
| Cable Junction Box | 2,000 – 2,500 |
| Full Reflector Heating System | 20,000 – 25,000 |
| Lightning Kit | 1,000 – 1,500 |
| Full System Installation | 9,000 – 10,500 |
| Shipping and Handling | 15,000 – 17,000 |
| *Large Antenna: Complete System* |  |
| Large Reflector and Standard Mount | 400,000 – 475,000 |
| Foundation Kit | 3,500 – 4,500 |
| C-band Dual Polarity Feed Assembly (per feed) | 1,500 – 2,500 |
| C-Band PLL LNB (per feed) | 500 – 1,100 |
| Cable Junction Box | 4,000 – 4,500 |
| Full Reflector Heating System | 55,000 – 65,000 |
| Lightning Kit | 2,000 – 2,500 |
| Full System Installation | 70,000 – 80,000 |
| Shipping and Handling | 25,000 – 30,000 |
| *Supporting Equipment* |  |
| Passband Filter | 400 – 900 |
| Multi-beam Bubble Cover Kit | 1,000 – 3,300 |
| Feed Peaking Kit | 500 – 1,100 |
| C-band Ortho Mode Transducers | 1,000 – 2,200 |
| C-band Antenna Feed Assembly (per feed) | 1,500 – 2,200 |
| 2 Cables with 4 Connectors (Cable length dependent) | 500 – 3,300 |

### Bi-directional Earth Stations

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| Table III-B-3: Bi-directional Earth Station Equipment | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| Duplication of Hub Platforms for Transition - single site | 200,000 – 1.5M |
| Additional Line Cards for transition | 6,000 – 10,000 |
| Additional Modems for transition | 2,000 – 8,000 |
| Additional Chassis | 3,000 – 10,000 |
| Core Network Components - Routers, Switches, Server (per component) | 1,000 – 30,000 |
| Platform and Network Installation/Testing | 9,000 – 17,000 |
| 2.4-3.0M Tx/Rx Antenna Terminal | 2,500 – 18,000 |
| 3.7M Tx/Rx Antenna Terminal | 10,000 – 30,000 |
| 4.5-6M Tx/Rx Antenna Terminal | 25,000 – 45,000 |
| 6M Tx/Rx Antenna Terminal / non-Pen | 60,000 – 200,000 |
| BUC 2W to 80W (outdoor unit) | 2,000 – 20,000 |
| BUC 100W-300W (outdoor unit) | 20,000 – 40,000 |

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### Temporary Fixed Earth Stations

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| Table III-B-4: Temporary Fixed Earth Station Equipment | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| 4.5M Transmit Antenna/Non-Pen | 25,000 – 45,000 |
| Shipping & Installation | 10,000 – 15,000 |
| Upconverter/Modulator | 50,000 – 75,000 |
| High Power Amplifier | 75,000 – 170,000 |

### Gateway and Large Aperture Point to Point Systems

The following table, III-B-5, lists items related to gateway or large aperture point-to-point systems including teleport equipment costs associated with common configurations for antenna sizes, e.g., 7.3m and 13m antennas with limited motion, extended performance, and full performance capability. Telemetry, Tracking, and Control (TT&C) consolidation costs are covered in Section C. 7.3m limited motion antennas (LMA) are anticipated to be used for RMS monitoring and also receive-only configurations, 13m LMAs are anticipated to be used for TT&C and Commercial Traffic, whereas 13m Extended Performance Antennas (EPAs) are anticipated to be used for TT&C Rover and site backup and 13m Full Performance Antennas (FPAs) are anticipated to be used for TT&C Rover and, where applicable, transfer orbit support services. The antenna is considered to be procured as a package from a single vendor per system, where major components include the antenna pedestal, hub, reflector, sub-reflector, low noise amplifier/block place (LNA/LNB), where LNB is used if the system is used for receive-only, and tracking/drive system. A vendor contract is assumed for the antenna hardware and installation services.

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| Table III-B-5: Gateway Equipment | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| *7.3m Limited Motion Antenna (LMA)* |  |
| 7.3m LMA | 550,000 – 700,000 |
| 7.3m LMA Installation | 150,000 – 250,000 |
| 7.3m LMA System Integration | 250,000 – 300,000 |
| 7.3m LMA Receive Only System Integration | 80,000 – 120,000 |
| *13m LMA* |  |
| 13m LMA | 950,000 – 1.1M |
| 13m LMA Installation | 350,000 – 500,000 |
| 13m LMA System Integration | 250,000 – 300,000 |
| *13m Extended Performance Antenna (EPA)* |  |
| 13m EPA | 1,550,000 – 1,950,000 |
| 13m EPA Installation | 350,000 – 500,000 |
| 13m EPA System Integration | 250,000 – 300,000 |
| *13m Full Performance Antenna (FPA)* |  |
| 13m FPA | 2,900,000 – 3,100,000 |
| 13m FPA Installation | 450,000 – 600,000 |
| 13m FPA System Integration | 250,000 – 300,000 |
| *Supporting Equipment* |  |
| Network Routers | 55,000 – 200,000 |
| Program Management for Antenna Installation | 60,000 – 210,000 |

## TT&C Consolidation Costs

The following table outlines the estimated costs associated with consolidating the TT&C sites.

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| Table III-C-1: Consolidation of TT&C | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| 13m Antenna System (full motion, calibrated) - Single Antenna | 1.5M – 2M |
| Antenna Installation - Single Antenna | 600,000 – 733,000 |
| Timing System | 36,000 – 105,000 |
| Baseband Unit | 100,000 – 600,000 |
| Test Loop Translator | 25,000 – 75,000 |
| Digital Interfacility Link to existing teleports for translation to baseband | 700,000 – 800,000 |
| Land/Facility Acquisition | 500,000 – 2.5M |
| Site Infrastructure Buildout | 75,000 – 250,000 |

## Expected Total Costs - Earth Station

While it is not the case for all entities, some entities may have to replace an entire installation either due to a need to relocate an installation or because the system is too old or incompatible with a simpler upgrade. Maximum costs are based on like-for-like replacements. An overall rollup range is provided and supporting information is provided above.

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| Table III-D-1: Expected Total Costs for Earth Stations | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| Receive Only Earth Station Relocation Cost | 39,000 – 80,000 |
| Receive Only Multi-beam Earth Station Relocation Cost | 180,000 – 590,000 |
| Bi-directional Earth Station Relocation Cost | 200,000 – 1.6M |
| Temporary Fixed Earth Station Relocation Cost | 150,000 – 310,000 |
| Gateway System Relocation Cost | 2.1M – 4.5M |
| New Earth Station License Application and Coordination Report | 5,000 – 8,000 |
| Application to Modify Existing Earth Station License and Coordination Report | 3,000 – 4,000 |

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## Lump Sum Payment Transition

The Commission established the option for earth station operators to accept a lump sum amount “based on the average, estimated costs” of relocating their earth stations.[[5]](#footnote-7) This option allows operators to transition to the upper 200 megahertz themselves or to move to alternative technologies (e.g., fiber). For each type of earth station outlined below (e.g., ranging from simple receive-only stations to gateway stations) the lump sum will include the estimated reasonable costs of any upgrades/modifications that the average earth station in that category would need to transition. The Commission outlined that entities selecting this choice would get the average, estimated costs of relocating all of the entity’s incumbent earth stations to the 4000-4200 MHz band, and would not be able to seek additional funds if the actual expenses to transition were more.[[6]](#footnote-8)

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| Table III-E-1: Estimated Lump Sum Payments per Type of Earth Station | Average Estimated Cost ($) |
| Small Receive Only ES 3.7 -4.2 Meter Single-feed | – |
| Small Receive Only ES 3.7 -4.2 Meter Multi-feed | – |
| Large Receive Only ES >4.2 Meter Single-feed | – |
| Large Receive Only ES >4.2 Meter Multi-feed | – |
| Small Multi-beam ES[[7]](#footnote-9) | – |
| Large Multi-beam ES | – |
| Gateway ES <=10 meter (bi-directional) | – |
| Gateway ES >10 meter | – |
| Temporary Fixed ES (mobile Electronic News Gathering trucks) | – |

# IV. Fixed Service Costs

As the *Order* states, “[i]ncumbent licensees of point-to-point Fixed Service links that relocate out of the 3.7-4.2 GHz band by December 5, 2023, shall be eligible for reimbursement of their reasonable costs based on the well-established ‘comparable facilities’ standard used for the transition of microwave links out of other bands.”[[8]](#footnote-10) Costs are stated on a “per link” relocation cost, where a discounting is associated with temporary fixed links (e.g., Electronic News Gathering and similar transportable fixed operations) versus permanent fixed links.

Depending on a Fixed Service operator’s new frequencies, it may be possible to retune existing transmitters/receivers to operate on new frequencies rather than replace them. Whether retuning is feasible depends on a number of factors, including the type of equipment, the frequency range(s) for which component parts are designed, the length of the path, and whether replacement parts and manufacturer support are available. In some cases, C-band Fixed Service equipment includes the capability to support the extended C-band (i.e., 5850-6725 MHz), which could potentially reduce the relocation effort required for some Fixed Service operators. In many cases, replacement may be the preferred option if the cost of retuning exceeds the cost of a new transmitter or the performance degradation is too severe or technically infeasible. Regardless of whether an operator chooses to retune or replace the equipment, the associated filters are channel-specific and must be replaced to accommodate any channel change.

The range of costs associated with Fixed Service relocation can vary widely from as little as $2,000 for a retune in cases where existing equipment support the new frequencies outside the 3700-4200 MHz band to as much as $290,000 for a complete like for like replacement of all equipment on both sides of the link for a 12-channel-or more system and significant tower and engineering labor. Historical data support an average link replacement cost of approximately $185,000. A collection of costs associated with a simple retune are provided in Section IV-A below followed by more complicated relocation cost estimates.

## Retuning Only Relocation

A simple retune, e.g. to the extended C-band in cases where this is possible, is anticipated to fall in the ranges found in Table IV-A-1. This includes the labor associated with the retune and any consulting, attorney and FCC fees as defined in Section IV-B, where the low end of the range assumes only filing fees and the high end assumes electromagnetic analyses and other support, e.g. consultants/attorneys.

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| Table IV-A-1: Fixed Service Retune Only Total Costs | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| Permanent Fixed Link Relocation Cost | 2,000 – 25,000 |
| Temporary Fixed Link Relocation Cost | 1,500 – 15,000 |

## Project Management, Consulting, Attorney, and FCC Costs/Fees

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| Table IV-B-1: Fixed Service Relocation Project Costs | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| Project management of the transition, if needed (cost per hour) | 62 – 200 |
| Address transition timing and coordination issues with other license holders, if needed | 850 – 2,750 |
| Prepare and/or review reimbursement form | 250 – 2,750 |
| Comprehensive study/verification of link performance and reliability, if needed for new electromagnetic environment. | 2,750 – 19,500 |

Note - Engineering/Electromagnetic Environmental Studies are commensurate with relocation activity complexity and the amount of analyses required for new band access.

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| Table IV-B-2: FCC Filing Fees (adjusted biennially) | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| New, Renewal or Renewal/Modification FCC Form 601/159 - Application Payment/Fee (Per Call Sign) | 305 |
| New, Renewal or Renewal/Modification FCC Form 601/159 - Regulatory Payment/Fee (Per Call Sign) | 250 |
| Special Temporary Authorization Request | 140 |
| Extension of Construction Authority FCC Form 601/159 - Application Payment/Fee (Per Call Sign) | 110 |

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| Table IV-B-3: Consulting/Attorney Fees | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| Prepare and File Engineering Section of FCC Form 601 (Schedule I) | 1,000 – 5,250 |
| Prepare and File Engineering Section of FCC Form 601 Schedule K (Notification of Completion of Construction) | 500 – 2,250 |
| Prepare and File Special Temporary Authorization | 1,000 – 3,500 |

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## Site/Project Costs For Same Tower Equipment Replacement

In most cases replacement of Fixed Service equipment is necessary to relocate to a new frequency band. In these cases, Fixed Service operators may seek to limit new tower construction by instead performing a like-for-like replacement of equipment that *must* be replaced. This subsection deals with costs associated with project and equipment replacement costs occurring on the towers where existing links reside and thus no costs are associated with new land access and/or a new tower. Costs are broken out by equipment costs, installation/pathing/testing costs, and radio frequency (RF) engineering required to replace both ends of a point-to-point microwave link in Tables IV-C-1, IV-C-2, and IV-C-3, respectively.

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| Table IV-C-1: Fixed Service Equipment for Single Microwave Path  (2 ends of a point to point microwave link) | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| Channel Filters | 450 – 2,100 |
| Indoor Radio Pair | 6,000 – 26,000 |
| Modem Pair | 650 – 5,500 |
| Microwave antennas - 2 parabolic dish antennas | 2,880 – 24,200 |
| Outdoor Units - 2 radios and enclosures | 1,000 – 7,750 |
| Microwave Network Management System Equipment (server and redundant server hardware) | 20,000 – 30,000 |
| Miscellaneous Materials(e.g. waveguide, dehydrator, grounding, DC to DC Converter, Racks, PDUs, Disposal, Delivery, Storage and Handling) | 3,000 – 25,000 |

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| Table IV-C-2 Installation/Pathing /Testing Costs | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| Microwave changeout per elevation (one site, each hop is two sites) - includes feedlines and sweep testing | 28,000 – 38,000 |
| Microwave Pathing | 12,000 – 16,000 |
| Radio, modem and cabling | 5,000 – 7,000 |
| Microwave Dish Antenna | 10,000 – 15,000 |
| Waveguide, Jumpers and Connectors | 3,000 – 5,000 |
| Dehydrator system | 1,000 – 1,500 |
| DC Breaker Installation | 400 – 600 |
| New ground bar for waveguide | 700 – 1,000 |
| New Ice bridge from shelter to tower | 6,000 – 8,000 |
| Dish Alignment | 2,500 – 3,500 |
| Radio Acceptance Testing | 4,000 – 6,000 |

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| Table IV-C-3 RF Engineering Costs | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| Perform Engineering Study for New Operating Frequencies and Antenna & RF Equipment Development/Selection | 2,000 – 15,000 |
| Comprehensive coverage verification via field study, if needed | 21,000 – 84,200 |

## Additional Site/Project Costs Associated with new Site(s)

In cases where a new site is required either for lease or purchase and access to a new tower, existing or new, is necessitated due to no other options being available for legacy Fixed Service systems to relocate to new spectrum bands, this section identifies costs that might be incurred in association with Fixed Service migration. Costs are grouped in terms of site acquisition costs, architecture/engineering costs, survey costs, environmental costs, and structural engineering costs.

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| Table IV-D-1 Site Acquisition Costs | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| Search Ring for new viable tower or ground space, confirm zoning and permitting process, site candidate application in existing asset, lease package or ground lease | 7,500 – 10,000 |
| Obtain building permits from local zoning authorities (cost of preparation, submission and prosecution of necessary forms or applications) | 1,500 – 6,000 |
| Obtain local permits other than for zoning (cost of preparation, submission, and prosecution of necessary forms or applications) | 500 – 2,500 |

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| Table IV-D-2 Architecture/Engineering Costs | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| Civil Site Visit & Lease Exhibit | 1,000 – 1,500 |
| Zoning Drawings | 950 – 1,250 |
| CDs - Co-Location (Per Carrier) | 1,500 – 2,500 |
| Lease Exhibit Revisions | 250 |
| CD Revisions  (Major changes, i.e. compound shift or access road shift) | 1,500 |
| Power Utility Coordination | 750 – 1,150 |
| Telco Utility Coordination | 750 – 1,150 |
| Building Permit Submittal (not including jurisdiction fees) | 1,000 – 1,250 |
| Perform Engineering Study for New Operating Frequencies and Antenna & RF Equipment Development/Selection | 2,000 – 15,000 |
| Comprehensive coverage verification via field study, if needed | 21,000 – 84,200 |
| RF Exposure Measurements (for sites where post-construction measurements have customarily been required or conducted) | 3,150 – 21,050 |

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| Table IV-D-3 Survey Costs | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| Survey & 1-A  Note additional fees may be incurred for access over 500' long  $1/ft beyond 500' | 2,500 – 4,500 |
| Title Review | 500 – 600 |
| Construction Staking | 1,000 – 2,000 |
| Survey - Additional Access Road | 1/ft beyond 500' |
| Survey Revisions  (Major change, i.e. compound shift or access road shift) | 1,500 |

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| Table IV-D-4 Environmental Costs | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| Environmental Site Visit Phase I ESA | 1,900 – 2,500 |
| NEPA Section 106 Environmental Review (Excludes Cultural Resources) | 2,000 – 6,300 |
| Cultural Resources (Reimbursed plus 10% pass through - Tribal Fees are TBD) | 2,250 – 2,500 |
| Desktop Scrub | 350 – 400 |
| NIER Letter | 1,250 |
| Geotechnical - Soil Boring and Report | 3,000 – 4,500 |
| Environmental Assessment, if Triggered by NEPA/Section 106 or for certain structures over 450 feet (cost in addition to NEPA Review) | 5,260 – 10,520 |

## Expected Total Costs - Fixed Service

An expected total cost on a “per link” basis is provided below for both sides of a point-to-point microwave link. Maximum costs are based on like-for-like replacements of 12-channel-or-more systems.

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| Table IV-E-1: Fixed Service Expected Total Costs  (2 sides of a point-to-point microwave link) | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| Retune Permanent Fixed Link Relocation Cost | 2,000 – 25,000 |
| Retune Temporary Fixed Link Relocation Cost | 1,500 – 15,000 |
| Replacement - Permanent Fixed Link Relocation Cost | 30,000 – 290,000 |
| Replacement Temporary Fixed Link Relocation Cost | 15,000 – 150,000 |

# V. Technology Upgrades

Multiple activities are understood to be required to clear the lower 300 megahertz of spectrum in the 3700-4200 MHz band, inclusive of repacking via load balancing across existing satellites, the deployment of new satellites, and also the installation of new receiver/decoder technologies that incorporate compression technologies.

Compression/remultiplexing approaches and related technologies are not considered to either improve or degrade performance of a link. Not all earth station links will require compression in order to clear the lower 300 megahertz. Further, the costs associated with new transcoding equipment at the transmit/uplink site and integrated receiver/decoder devices at the receive site can be expensive. Therefore, only some stakeholders are expected to be reimbursed for new encrypt/encode/compress and decode/decrypt/decompress equipment. Moreover, if one side of the link is replaced then so too must the other. Therefore, the reimbursement for and distribution of this equipment is anticipated to flow through the satellite operators and is not part of earth station costs (except for labor for installing said equipment). In this way, the satellite operators are both responsible and accountable for the successful repacking of their operations into the upper 200 megahertz.

Costs associated with compression equipment are included in the table below. Operators are responsible for justifying the number of pieces of equipment they need to completely repack into the upper 200 megahertz.

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| Table V-A-1: Uplink Technology Upgrades | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| Encoding / Statmux Equipment (per transponder) | 275,000 – 1.21M |
| Modulation and Coding Equipment (per transponder) | 50,000 – 85,000 |

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| Table V-A-2: Downlink Technology Upgrades | Range of Estimated Cost ($) |
| Integrated Receiver / Decoders (per transponder) | 5,000 – 35,000 |

1. Note that such expenses and costs incurred extend to earth stations located outside of the contiguous United States to the extent it can be demonstrated that the system modifications for which they seek reimbursement are necessary as a direct result of the C-band transition. *See Expanding Flexible Use of the 3.7 to 4.2 GHz Band*, GN Docket No. 18-122, Report and Order and Order of Proposed Modification, FCC 20-22, at 85-86, para. 204 (Mar. 3, 2020) (*Order*). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
2. *See, e.g.*, *Order* at 79-88, paras. 193-210 (establishing guidelines for compensable costs). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
3. *Order* at 80, para. 194. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
4. *Order* at 79, para. 193. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
5. *Order* at 84-85, para. 202. Note that while reimbursement of expenses on an itemized basis is available for earth stations located outside of the contiguous United States to the extent it can be demonstrated that the system modifications for which reimbursement is sought are necessary as a direct result of the C-band transition, the lump sum payment is not an option for earth stations outside of the contiguous United States. *Id.* at 86, para. 204 n.550. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
6. *Order* at 85, para. 203 & n.547. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
7. Based on average number of filters. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
8. *See Order* at 123, para. 326. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)