



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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SPACE BUREAU OPENS NEW DOCKET TO EXPLORE ECHOSTAR CORPORATION'S USE OF 2 GHZ MSS SPECTRUM

SB Docket No. 25-173

Comment Date: May 27, 2025
Reply Comment Date: June 6, 2025

By this Public Notice, the Space Bureau establishes SB Docket No. 25-173, with the purpose of seeking comment on EchoStar Corporation's (EchoStar) use of the 2000-2020 MHz (Earth-to-space) and 2180-2200 MHz (space-to-Earth) (2 GHz bands) for mobile-satellite service (MSS).

Background. The 2 GHz bands are allocated on a co-primary basis for fixed, mobile, and mobile satellite services. In 2001, the Commission authorized eight satellite operators to provide MSS in the 2 GHz bands available in the United States. Due to failures to meet milestones or licensees surrendering authorizations, by 2005 there were only two geostationary satellite orbit operators. In 2012, EchoStar acquired these two operators' market access grants to provide MSS through its subsidiaries using the 2 GHz bands.¹ For the same frequencies, in 2011-2012 the Commission adopted allocation² and service rules for the Advanced Wireless Service (AWS-4) bands and thereafter authorized AWS-4 terrestrial operating authority.³ The current and sole licensee in these bands for both MSS and AWS-4 is EchoStar.

¹ Gamma Acquisition L.L.C. (Gamma), and DBSD Corporation (DBSD) are the current MSS market access grantees and along with DISH, are subsidiaries of parent EchoStar Corporation. We refer to all of these entities as EchoStar for convenience. Gamma (formerly Terrestrial) operates the Terrestrial T-1 satellite at the 111° W.L. orbital location (Call Sign S2633). The following earth stations licensed to Gamma are authorized to communicate with Terrestrial T-1: Call Signs: E070098, E060430 (renewal is pending, ICFS File No. SES-RWL-20241213-02647), E090061 (renewal is pending SES-RWL-20250206-00133). DBSD (formerly ICO) currently operates the DBSD G-1 satellite at the 92.85° W.L. orbital location (Call Sign S2651). The following earth stations licensed to DBSD are authorized to communicate with DBSD G-1: Call Signs: E080035, E070291, E070290, and E070272.

² See *Fixed and Mobile Services in the Mobile Satellite Service Bands at 1525-1559 MHz and 1626.5-1660.5 MHz, 1610-1626.5 MHz and 2483.5-2500 MHz, and 2000-2020 MHz and 2180-2200 MHz*, Report and Order, 26 FCC Rcd 5710, 5714-15, para. 10 (2011).

³ *Service Rules for Advanced Wireless Services in the 2000-2020 MHz and 2180-2200 MHz Band*, Report and Order and Order of Proposed Modification, 27 FCC Rcd 16102, para. 8 (2012) (*AWS-4 Report and Order*).

To date, questions have been raised about whether the 2 GHz band is being used for MSS, notwithstanding the premise of the Commission's past decisions.⁴

Seeking Comment. To assist the Commission with building a record on the nature of the use of the 2 GHz band for MSS operations, we seek comment on the current status of EchoStar's MSS operations in the 2 GHz band. In particular, we seek information on whether EchoStar is utilizing the 2 GHz band for MSS consistent with the terms of its authorizations and the Commission's rules and policies governing the expectation of robust MSS.⁵ We also seek comment on steps the Commission might take to make more intensive use of the 2 GHz band, including but not limited to allowing new MSS entrants in the band.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Comments and Reply Comments. Interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates indicated on the first page of this document. Comments may be filed using: (1) the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS); or (2) by filing paper copies. All filings should reference **SB Docket No. 25-173**.

- *Electronic Filers:* Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs>.
- *Paper Filers:* Parties filing by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing.
 - Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial courier, or by the U.S. Postal Service. **All filings must be addressed to the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.**
 - Hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary are accepted between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. by the FCC's mailing contractor at 9050 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes and boxes must be disposed of before entering the building.
 - Commercial courier deliveries (any deliveries not by the U.S. Postal Service) must be sent to 9050 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701.
 - Filings sent by U.S. Postal Service First-Class Mail, Priority Mail, and Priority Mail Express must be sent to 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554.

⁴ Letter from David Goldman, Vice President of Satellite Policy, Space Exploration Technologies, Corp., to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, WT Docket No. 22-212, RM-11976, ICFS File No. SES-RWL-20241213-02647 (filed Apr. 14, 2025); SpaceX Opposition to Application of Gamma Acquisition L.L.C. For Renewal of Mobile-Satellite Service Blanket Earth Station Authorization, ICFS File No. SES-RWL-20241213-02647, Call Sign E060430; *Request for Comment on Petition for Rulemaking by Space Exploration Holdings, LLC, Regarding Revision of the Commission's 2 GHz MSS Sharing Plan*, Public Notice, RM-11976, DA 24-299 (rel. March 26, 2024) (SpaceX Petition for Rulemaking on 2 GHz MSS Sharing Plan).

⁵ Gamma's license for end user terminals specify up to 2,000,000 terminals (Call Sign E060430) and DBSD's license for end user terminals specify up to 1,000,000 terminals (Call Sign: E070272). DBSD recently indicated that its blanket license "has been used since 2012 for testing different services...that are all aimed at bringing a commercial 2 GHz MSS service to consumers" Reply of DBSD Corporation to Opposition of SpaceX, ICFS File No. SES-RWL-20240105-00013, Call Sign E070272, at 2 (Jan. 10, 2024).

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Ex Parte Rules. This proceeding shall be treated as “permit-but-disclose” proceeding in accordance with the Commission’s *ex parte* rules.⁶ Persons making *ex parte* presentations must file a copy of any written presentation or a memorandum summarizing any oral presentation within two business days after the presentation (unless a different deadline applicable to the Sunshine period applies). Persons making oral *ex parte* presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentation must (1) list all persons attending or otherwise participating in the meeting at which the *ex parte* presentation was made, and (2) summarize all data presented and arguments made during the presentation. If the presentation consisted in whole or in part of the presentation of data or arguments already reflected in the presenter’s written comments, memoranda or other filings in the proceeding, the presenter may provide citations to such data or arguments in his or her prior comments, memoranda, or other filings (specifying the relevant page and/or paragraph numbers where such data or arguments can be found) in lieu of summarizing them in the memorandum. Documents shown or given to Commission staff during *ex parte* meetings are deemed to be written *ex parte* presentations and must be filed consistent with rule 1.1206(b).⁷ In proceedings governed by rule 1.49(f) or for which the Commission has made available a method of electronic filing, written *ex parte* presentations and memoranda summarizing oral *ex parte* presentations, and all attachments thereto, must, when feasible, be filed through the electronic comment filing system available for that proceeding, and must be filed in their native format (e.g., .doc, .xml, .ppt, searchable .pdf).⁸ Participants in this proceeding should familiarize themselves with the Commission’s *ex parte* rules.⁹

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⁶ See 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.* §§ 1.49(f), 1.1206(b)(2)(i).

⁹ See *id.* §§ 1.1200-1216.