



# PUBLIC NOTICE

**Federal Communications Commission**  
**45 L Street NE**  
**Washington, DC 20554**

News Media Information 202-418-0500  
Internet: [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov)

**DA 25-815**

**Released: September 5, 2025**

**SPACE BUREAU, WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU, AND PUBLIC  
SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU ACCEPT FOR FILING  
APPLICATIONS OF AST & SCIENCE, LLC AND AT&T, VERIZON, AND FIRSTNET  
REQUESTING SUPPLEMENTAL COVERAGE FROM SPACE AUTHORIZATION  
AND SEEK COMMENT ON WAIVER REQUESTS**

**SB Docket No. 25-201**

**ICFS File Nos. SAT-MOD-20250612-00145, SAT-AMD-20250718-00181, and SAT-AMD-  
20250903-00248**

**ULS File Nos. 0010538493, 0011607666, and 0011654129**

**Comments/Petitions Due: October 6, 2025**

**Response to Comments/Oppositions to Petition Due: October 16, 2025**

**Replies to Responses/Oppositions Due: October 23, 2025**

By this Public Notice, the Space Bureau (SB), Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB), and the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (together, the Bureaus)<sup>1</sup> announce that the applications for supplemental coverage from space (SCS) authorization filed jointly by AST & Science, LLC (AST) and various indirect subsidiaries of AT&T (AT&T), filed jointly by AST and Celco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless and its affiliates (Verizon), and filed jointly by AST and First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) have been found, upon initial review, to be acceptable for filing. The Bureaus seek comment on these filings. The Bureaus also seek comment on requests for waivers to allow AST, AT&T, and Verizon to deploy SCS in areas within the Continental United States (CONUS) and Hawaii geographic independent areas (GIAs) where the terrestrial wireless carriers do not hold spectrum and for AST to provide SCS on certified but not authorized devices.

**Part 25 Application**

On June 12, 2025, AST filed an application to modify its existing part 25 authorization.<sup>2</sup> On July 21, 2025 and September 3, 2025, AST filed amendments to this application.<sup>3</sup> This part 25 application, as amended, lays out a comprehensive proposal whereby AST seeks to operate 248 non-geostationary orbit (NGSO) satellites to provide SCS in collaboration with AT&T, Verizon, and FirstNet and builds on its

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<sup>1</sup> When the Commission adopted its SCS rules, the Commission delegated authority to SB and WTB to review SCS part 25 applications and SCS leasing arrangements and delegated authority to SB, WTB, and PSHSB to review SCS applications filed by FirstNet. *Single Network Future: Supplemental Coverage from Space*, GN Docket No. 23-65, IB Docket No. 22-271, Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 39 FCC Rcd 2622, 2655, 2667, paras. 75, 109 (2024) (*SCS Order*).

<sup>2</sup> ICFS File No. SAT-MOD-20250612-00145.

<sup>3</sup> ICFS File Nos. SAT-AMD-20250718-00181, SAT-AMD-20250903-00248.

prior authorization to perform feeder link and telemetry, tracking, and command (TT&C) operations using five satellites.<sup>4</sup> On August 29, 2025, the Satellite Programs and Policy Division within SB granted-in-part and deferred-in-part AST's modification application, as amended in the first instance, authorizing AST to deploy 20 additional satellites and to perform TT&C operations using those satellites.<sup>5</sup>

For the full requested 248-satellite constellation, in addition to the authority already granted and the requests that have previously been accepted for filing, AST seeks authority to provide SCS in the United States using the following frequency bands: 698-716 MHz (Earth-to-space), 728-746 MHz (space-to-Earth), 758-768 MHz (space-to-Earth), 788-798 MHz (Earth-to-space), 824-849 MHz (Earth-to-space), and 869-894 MHz (space-to-Earth). AST further seeks authority to operate in the mobile-satellite service (MSS) outside the United States using the following frequency bands: 617-652 MHz, 728-821 MHz, 852-894 MHz, and 902-960 MHz (space-to-Earth); and 663-748 MHz, 777-798 MHz, 807-862 MHz, and 880-915 MHz (Earth-to-space). AST likewise requests to perform feeder link operations in the 45.5-47 GHz (Earth-to-space) band. Also in addition to operations already granted and the requests that have previously been accepted for filing, for 20 authorized satellites and 223 requested satellites, AST requests to perform feeder link operations in the 37.5-42 GHz (space-to-Earth), 47.2-50.2 GHz (Earth-to-space), and 50.4-51.4 GHz (Earth-to-space) bands. We seek comment on these requests and associated waiver requests to enable the proposed SCS network.<sup>6</sup>

#### Lease Arrangements

AST and AT&T filed a long-term spectrum manager lease notification informing the Commission of a lease whereby AST satellites would provide SCS to AT&T's terrestrial network on certain 800 MHz Cellular A and B Block spectrum as well as certain Lower 700 MHz A, B, and C Block spectrum licensed to AT&T in CONUS and Hawaii.<sup>7</sup> AST and AT&T seek waivers to enable the proposed SCS network.<sup>8</sup> We seek comment on these leases and associated waiver requests.

AST and Verizon filed a long-term spectrum manager lease notification informing the Commission of a lease whereby AST satellites would provide SCS to Verizon's terrestrial network on 800 MHz Cellular spectrum licensed to Verizon in CONUS and Hawaii.<sup>9</sup> AST and Verizon seek waivers

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<sup>4</sup> *AST&Science LLC Application to Launch and Operate a Non-Geostationary Orbit V-band System*, ICFS File Nos. SAT-LOA-20200413-00034, SAT-AMD-20200727-00088, SAT-AMD-20201028-00126, SAT-AMD-20230717-00172, SAT-AMD-20240311-00053, Order and Authorization, 39 FCC Rcd 8558 (2024). AST's part 25 modification application was previously accepted for filing in part. *Space Bureau Accepts For Filing AST & Science, LLC Modification Application*, Public Notice, DA 25-532 (June 20, 2025); *see also Satellite Licensing Division and Satellite Programs and Policy Division Information RE: Applications Accepted for Filing*, Report No. SAT-01931 (Jul. 3, 2025).

<sup>5</sup> ICFS File Nos. SAT-MOD-20250612-00145, SAT-AMD-20250718-00181.

<sup>6</sup> *See* ICFS File No. SAT-MOD-20250612-00145, Narrative at 13-21; ICFS File Nos. SAT-MOD-20250612-00145, SAT-AMD-20250718-00181, Request for Waiver.

<sup>7</sup> Application of AST and AT&T for Spectrum Manager Leasing Arrangement, ULS File No. 0010538493 (Lead) (filed May 10, 2023, last amended Aug. 15, 2025) (AST and AT&T SCS Lease Application) (A full list of included licenses is available in "Description of Spectrum to be Leased to AST & Science LLC," Exhibit 2.).

<sup>8</sup> *See* AST and AT&T SCS Lease Application, Exhibit 1 – Amended Description of Leases and Waiver at 3-8; *see also* ICFS File No. SAT-MOD-20250612-00145, Narrative at 13-21; ICFS File Nos. SAT-MOD-20250612-00145, SAT-AMD-20250718-00181, Request for Waiver (filed Aug. 6, 2025).

<sup>9</sup> Application of AST and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless and its affiliates (Verizon) for Spectrum Manager Leasing Arrangement, ULS File No. 0011607666 (Lead) (filed June 12, 2025, last amended Aug. 15, 2025) (AST and Verizon SCS Lease Application) (A full list of included licenses is available in "Public Interest Statement and Waiver Request Amended," Exhibit 1.).

to enable this SCS network.<sup>10</sup> We seek comment on these leases and associated waiver requests.

#### AST and FirstNet

AST and FirstNet filed an administrative update to FirstNet's 700 MHz Public Safety Broadband Nationwide License informing the Commission of a contractual agreement whereby AST would provide SCS in the 758-768 MHz (space-to-Earth) and 788-798 MHz (Earth-to-space) bands (i.e. Band 14) that are licensed to FirstNet.<sup>11</sup>

When the Commission adopted its SCS rules, it recognized FirstNet's unique structure and adopted alternative procedures for FirstNet and its partners to satisfy the SCS criteria.<sup>12</sup> We note that AST and FirstNet attached a report purportedly showing that AST's satellite system can effectively complement service over Band 14, which is assigned exclusively for use by FirstNet.<sup>13</sup> Consequently, we seek comment generally on the application filed jointly by AST and FirstNet. Moreover, we also seek comment on: (1) whether the AST Interference Study is appropriate, including expected average capacity/throughput per satellite beam and average user throughput using FirstNet's 700 MHz spectrum; and (2) whether AST's proposal to offer SCS on Band 14 will impact in any way public safety operations outside FirstNet's spectrum, particularly to operations on the adjacent narrowband segment of the 700 MHz band.

#### Waiver Requests

Under the Commission's rules, satellite operators and terrestrial wireless licensees may enter into spectrum manager leases for the provision of SCS when a single licensee holds all the co-channel licenses on the relevant SCS band throughout one of six GIAs or when multiple co-channel licensees collectively holds all co-channel licenses in a particular SCS band throughout one of six GIAs.<sup>14</sup> According to AST, AT&T, and Verizon, AT&T and Verizon's 800 MHz Cellular and AT&T's Lower 700 MHz licenses do not cover the entire CONUS GIA. Thus, AST, AT&T, and Verizon request waivers of section 1.9047(d) of the Commission's rules as it pertains to the CONUS GIA.<sup>15</sup> Relatedly, AST requests a waiver of section 25.125(a) of the Commission's rules which requires that the applicant of an SCS space station authorization has a lease arrangement with one or more terrestrial wireless licensees that hold all co-channel licenses throughout a GIA.<sup>16</sup> We seek comment on these waiver requests.

Under the Commission's rules, 800 MHz Cellular licensees have exclusive rights within their licensed Cellular Geographic Service Areas and are permitted to serve Unserved Areas within 50 contiguous square miles on a secondary, unprotected basis without FCC filings.<sup>17</sup> To expand service beyond this 50 square mile Unserved Area, 800 MHz Cellular licensees must file FCC Form 601 seeking

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<sup>10</sup> See AST and Verizon SCS Lease Application, Ex. 1: Public Interest Statement and Waiver Request Amended at 5-12; see also ICFS File No. SAT-MOD-20250612-00145, Narrative at 13-21; ICFS File Nos. SAT-MOD-20250612-00145, SAT-AMD-20250718-00181, Request for Waiver.

<sup>11</sup> Application of AST and FirstNet for SCS, ULS File No. 0011654129 (filed July 18, 2025) (AST and FirstNet SCS ULS Application).

<sup>12</sup> SCS Order, 39 FCC Rcd at 2666-68, paras. 105-09 (2024).

<sup>13</sup> AST and FirstNet SCS ULS Application at Ex. 2; ICFS File No. SAT-AMD-20250718-00181, Annex E.

<sup>14</sup> 47 CFR § 1.9047(d); see also 47 CFR § 25.125(a).

<sup>15</sup> See AST and AT&T SCS Lease Application, Exhibit 1 – Amended Description of Leases and Waiver at 3-7; AST and Verizon SCS Lease Application, Ex. 1: Public Interest Statement and Waiver Request Amended at 5-8; see also ICFS File No. SAT-MOD-20250612-00145, Narrative at 13-21.

<sup>16</sup> ICFS File No. SAT-MOD-20250612-00145, Narrative at 13-21.

<sup>17</sup> 47 CFR § 22.912(a).

prior approval from the Commission.<sup>18</sup> AST, AT&T, and Verizon assert that the unique geographic service areas of their 800 MHz Cellular licenses results in some areas of the CONUS and Hawaii GIAs being ineligible for SCS without waiver, and thus request waivers to enable SCS across both GIAs.<sup>19</sup> We seek comment on this waiver request.

In addition, under the Commission's rules, terrestrial device equipment authorization grantees must modify existing, or obtain new, equipment authorizations for previously certified terrestrial devices to reflect those devices' approval to operate under a part 25 MSS allocation and applicable SCS rules.<sup>20</sup> AST asserts that a waiver of the SCS handset rules is necessary to increase connectivity to wireless subscribers and first responders, and thus requests waiver of the Commission's rules so that handsets within AST's network that are certified prior to June 29, 2024, but not authorized for SCS operations, may receive SCS.<sup>21</sup> We seek comment on this waiver request.

#### Procedural Matters

*Ex Parte Rules.* Pursuant to section 1.1200(a) of the Commission's rules,<sup>22</sup> the Commission may adopt modified or more stringent *ex parte* procedures in particular proceedings if the public interest so requires. We announce that this proceeding will be governed by permit-but-disclose *ex parte* procedures that are applicable to non-restricted proceedings under section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules.<sup>23</sup> This proceeding shall be treated as a "permit-but-disclose" proceeding in accordance with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.<sup>24</sup> Entities or 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). Entities or 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). 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 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).<sup>25</sup> Participants in this proceeding should familiarize themselves with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.

*Comment Period and Filing Procedures.* Interested parties may file comments and reply

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<sup>18</sup> 47 CFR §§ 22.165(e), 22.911.

<sup>19</sup> See AST and AT&T SCS Lease Application, Exhibit 1 – Amended Description of Leases and Waiver at 3, 7-8; AST and Verizon SCS Lease Application, Ex. 1: Public Interest Statement and Waiver Request Amended at 5-6, 9-12.

<sup>20</sup> 47 CFR §§ 2.805(a), 25.115(q)(1), 25.125(c), 25.125(d)(3).

<sup>21</sup> ICFS File Nos. SAT-MOD-20250612-00145, SAT-AMD-20250718-00181, Request for Waiver at 1, 3-4.

<sup>22</sup> 47 CFR § 1.1200(a).

<sup>23</sup> 47 CFR § 1.1206.

<sup>24</sup> 47 CFR §§ 1.1200 *et seq.*

<sup>25</sup> 47 CFR § 1.1206(b).

comments on or before the dates indicated on the first page of this document.<sup>26</sup> All filings must refer to SB Docket No. 25-201 and ICFS File Nos. SAT-MOD-20250612-00145, SAT-AMD-20250718-00181, and SAT-AMD-20250903-00248. Comments regarding ICFS File Nos. SAT-MOD-20250612-00145, SAT-AMD-20250718-00181, and SAT-AMD-20250903-00248 must be filed in accordance with section 25.154 of the Commission's rules. However, in order to facilitate consideration of the requests, we waive on our own motion the portion of section 25.154 that requires filings to be submitted in the International Communications Filing System (ICFS).<sup>27</sup> Instead, comments and other pleadings may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS).<sup>28</sup>

- *Electronic Filers:* Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/>.
- *Paper Filers:* Parties who choose to file 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.

*People with Disabilities.* To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to [fcc504@fcc.gov](mailto:fcc504@fcc.gov) or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice).

*Availability of Documents.* Comments, reply comments, and *ex parte* submissions will be available via ECFS, ICFS, and ULS. Documents will be available electronically in ASCII, Microsoft Word, and/or Adobe Acrobat.

*Additional Information.* For further information, contact Stephanie Neville, Space Bureau, at (202) 418-1671 or [stephanie.neville@fcc.gov](mailto:stephanie.neville@fcc.gov); Alice Koethe, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Mobility Division, at (202) 418-1022 or [alice.koethe@fcc.gov](mailto:alice.koethe@fcc.gov); and Brian Marenco, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Policy and Licensing Division, at (202) 418-0838 or [Brian.Marenco@fcc.gov](mailto:Brian.Marenco@fcc.gov).

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<sup>26</sup> See 47 CFR §§ 1.2, 1.405, and 1.419.

<sup>27</sup> 47 CFR § 25.154(a)(3), (d), and (e).

<sup>28</sup> See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 FR 24121-01 (1998).