



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

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**SPECTRUM BUSINESS TRUST 2025-1, SPACE EXPLORATION TECHNOLOGIES
CORP., AND ECHOSTAR CORPORATION SEEK FCC CONSENT TO THE
PROPOSED ASSIGNMENT OF CERTAIN SPECTRUM AND EARTH STATION
LICENSES HELD BY ECHOSTAR TO SPACEX**

GN DOCKET NO. 25-302

Petitions to Deny Due: October 30, 2025

Oppositions Due: November 14, 2025

Replies Due: November 24, 2025

By this Public Notice, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) and the Space Bureau (SB) announce that the spectrum and earth station license assignment applications filed by Spectrum Business Trust 2025-1 (the Trust), Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX), and EchoStar Corporation and its wholly owned subsidiaries (EchoStar) (collectively, the Applicants) have been found, upon initial review, to be acceptable for filing.¹

Description of Transaction. On September 18, 2025, the Trust, SpaceX, and EchoStar filed applications pursuant to section 310(d) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,² seeking the Commission's consent to a two-step assignment whereby EchoStar's AWS-4 and AWS-H Block spectrum licenses and several earth station licenses will be assigned to the Trust for the benefit of SpaceX and then, approximately two years later, to SpaceX.³ The Applicants state that granting the transaction and the associated waivers will allow SpaceX to deploy a hybrid satellite and terrestrial network and provide MSS service direct to consumer handsets.⁴ They also state that as part of the transaction,

¹ ULS File Nos. 0011755472, 0011755474 and 0011755481 and File Number 50000ALAA25 filed in ECFS (filed Sept. 18, 2025); ICFS File Nos. SES-ASG-20250918-00146 and SES-ASG-20250918-00147 and Submission ID 1091941380832 filed in ECFS (filed Sept. 18, 2025) (Applications). The Commission reserves the right to return any of these applications if, upon further examination, it is determined to be defective and not in conformance with the Commission's rules or policies.

² 47 U.S.C. § 310(d).

³ Applications, Description of the Transaction, Public Interest Showing, and Related Demonstrations at 4 (filed Sept. 18, 2025) (Public Interest Statement).

⁴ See ICFS File No. SAT-LOA-20250916-00282. SpaceX applied for a new non-geostationary orbit system license and proposes operations inside and outside the United States. As relevant to this proposed transaction, SpaceX requests to provide supplemental coverage from space within the United States on the PCS-G Block and AWS-H Block and to perform mobile-satellite service operations on the AWS-4 spectrum in the United States. The ICFS application includes other proposals, as well.

EchoStar will also have access to that network, which will benefit the customers of its Boost network and significantly enhance its ability to compete.⁵

Two EchoStar wholly-owned licensee subsidiaries—DBSD Corporation (DBSD) and Gamma Acquisition L.L.C. (Gamma)—hold AWS-4 and earth station licenses issued by the Commission, while another wholly owned licensee subsidiary—American H Block Wireless LLC (AHB Wireless)—holds AWS-H Block licenses. In step one of the transaction, the AWS-4, AWS-H Block, and earth station licenses held by the EchoStar subsidiaries will be assigned to the Trust, which will hold the licenses for up to two years.⁶ At that point, the AWS-4, AWS-H Block, and earth station licenses will be assigned from the Trust to SpaceX.⁷ The Applicants have filed both steps now, with step one filed in the Commission’s Universal Licensing System (ULS) and the International Communications Filing System (ICFS) databases and step two filed on paper in the Commission’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). The Applicants seek authority to consummate both steps of the transaction.

DBSD and Gamma also hold the U.S. market access grants issued for 2 GHz mobile-satellite service from non-U.S.-licensed satellites located at 93° W.L. and 111° W.L., respectively.⁸ These market access grants will also be assigned by EchoStar but are not part of these applications because no prior Commission consent is required for such assignments. As required under section 25.137(g) of the Commission’s rules, the Applicants state they will notify the Commission within 30 days after consummation of the assignment of these grants to both the Trust and to SpaceX.⁹

Waivers. As part of the instant transaction, the Applicants request waiver of sections 1.913(b), 1.948(d), 25.110, 25.115, 27.14(q), and 27.14(r), of the Commission’s rules, as well as a waiver or reversal of EchoStar’s election to designate the 2000–2020 MHz band for downlink operations:

- The Applicants request a waiver of the terrestrial construction requirements currently applicable to EchoStar’s AWS-4 and AWS-H Block licenses, and to the extent necessary, the requirements contained in sections 27.14(q) and 27.14(r) of the Commission’s rules as applied to the AWS-4 and AWS-H Block spectrum to allow SpaceX to construct a hybrid satellite/terrestrial network.¹⁰
- SpaceX requests a waiver or reversal of EchoStar’s previous downlink election for 2000–2020 MHz AWS-4 spectrum licenses to return the licenses to the Commission’s AWS-4 band plan that includes equal amounts of spectrum supporting uplink and downlink transmissions.¹¹
- The Applicants request waiver of section 25.115 of the Commission’s rules so that end-user handsets authorized to operate terrestrially using the AWS-4 band are also authorized to operate as earth stations without having to file for any additional earth station authorization.¹²
- The Applicants ask us to waive the consummation period under section 1.948(d), which requires notification of consummation within 180 days of public notice of the approval of

⁵ Public Interest Statement at 14, 16.

⁶ The parties note that closing of the second step is expected to occur on or about November 30, 2027, with the possibility of both an accelerated closing or limited extensions of that closing date. Public Interest Statement at 4.

⁷ Public Interest Statement at 4.

⁸ Public Interest Statement at 3.

⁹ See 47 CFR § 25.137(g).

¹⁰ Applications, Exh. B, Waiver Requests at 2–5 (Waiver Requests).

¹¹ Waiver Requests at 5–6.

¹² Waiver Requests at 6–7.

a transaction.¹³ The Applicants note that final consummation of the second step of the transaction may not occur within the 180-day period, and ask for a preemptive extension of the consummation deadline through November 16, 2027.¹⁴

- Due to the two-step nature of the subject transaction, the Applicants filed paper applications for the second step of the transaction so that both steps can be considered by the Commission at the same time. Accordingly, Applicants ask us to waive sections 1.913(b) and 25.110(b), which require assignment applicants to be filed electronically in ULS and ICFS, respectively.¹⁵

Ex Parte Rules. Pursuant to section 1.1200(a) of the Commission's rules,¹⁶ 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.¹⁷ This proceeding shall be treated as a "permit-but-disclose" proceeding in accordance with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.¹⁸ 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).¹⁹ Participants in this proceeding should familiarize themselves with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.

Comment Period and Filing Requirements. Interested parties may file pleadings on or before the dates indicated on the first page of this document. All filings may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). Filings should refer to Docket Number GN 25-302 when filing in response to this Public Notice.

- Electronic Filers: Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing 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.

¹³ See 47 CFR § 25.119(f).

¹⁴ Waiver Requests at 8.

¹⁵ Waiver Requests at 8–9.

¹⁶ 47 CFR § 1.1200(a).

¹⁷ 47 CFR § 1.1206.

¹⁸ 47 CFR §§ 1.1200 *et seq.*

¹⁹ 47 CFR § 1.1206(b).

- 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.

One copy of each pleading, *ex parte* submission, or other filing must be delivered electronically, by email, or if delivered as paper copy, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (according to the procedures set forth above for paper filings), to: (1) Susannah Larson, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at susannah.larson@fcc.gov; (2) Aleksandr Yankelevich, Economic Analysis Division, Office of Economics and Analytics, aleks.yankelevich@fcc.gov; (3) Nadja Sodos-Wallace, Broadband Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, nadja.sodoswallace@fcc.gov; (4) Stephen Duall, Space Bureau, stephen.duall@fcc.gov; and (5) Joel Rabinovitz, Office of General Counsel, at TransactionTeam@fcc.gov. Any submission emailed to these individuals should include in the subject line of the email: (1) GN Docket Number 25-302; (2) the name of the submitting party; and (3) a brief description or title identifying the type of document being submitted (e.g., GN Docket Number 25-302; Widget Corp., Notice of *Ex Parte* Communications).

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 or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice).

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