



PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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Section 1.767(a) Submarine Cable Landing Licenses, Modifications, and Assignments or Transfers of Control of Interests in Submarine Cable Landing Licenses (47 C.F.R. § 1.767(a))

Actions Taken Under Submarine Cable Landing License Act

By the Chief, Telecommunications and Analysis Division, Office of International Affairs:

Pursuant to an Act relating to the landing and operation of submarine cables in the United States, 47 U.S.C. §§ 34-39 (Submarine Cable Landing License Act), Executive Order No. 10530, Exec. Ord. No. 10530 reprinted as amended in 3 U.S.C. § 301, and section 1.767 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 1.767, the following applications ARE GRANTED. These grants of authority are taken under section 0.351 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 0.351. Petitions for reconsideration under section 1.106 or applications for review under section 1.115 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 1.106, 1.115, may be filed within 30 days of the date of this public notice.

These applications have been coordinated with the Department of State and other Executive Branch agencies pursuant to section 1.767(b) of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 1.767(b), and consistent with procedures established with the Department of State. See Review of Commission Consideration of Applications under the Cable Landing License Act, IB Docket No. 00-106, Report and Order, 16 FCC Rcd 22167, 22192-93, paras. 51-52 (2001) (Submarine Cable Landing License Report and Order); Commission Announces Department of State's Revised Procedures for its Consideration of Submarine Cable Landing License Applications, IB Docket No. 16-155, Public Notice, DA 22-435 (rel. Apr. 19, 2022).

This public notice serves as each submarine cable landing licensee's Submarine Cable Landing License, or modification thereto, pursuant to the Cable Landing License Act and sections 1.767 and 1.768 of the Commission's rules. Submarine cable landing licensees should review the terms and conditions of their licenses. Failure to comply with these terms and conditions or relevant Commission rules and policies could result in fines or forfeitures.

On November 25, 2025, EXA Infrastructure US, LLC (EXA Infrastructure) filed an application for a new 25-year cable landing license for the EXA North and South system (EXA North and South), a non-common carrier fiber optic submarine cable network connecting the United States with Canada, Ireland, and the United Kingdom. The current license for EXA North and South (SCL-LIC-19990804-00012, SCL-MOD-20020412-00022, SCL-MOD-20020412-00023) will expire on May 4, 2026.

The application was placed on Public Notice on February 27, 2026. *See* SCL-RWL-20251124-00078, Streamlined Submarine Cable Landing License Applications, Accepted For Filing, Report No. SCL00597S, Public Notice, DA 26-203 (OIA Feb. 27, 2026) (*Public Notice*). No comments were filed in response to the Public Notice.

Licensing History.

EXA North and South was originally licensed to Worldwide Telecom (USA) Inc. in 2000 as the Hibernia cable system. *See* Worldwide Telecom (USA) Inc., Application for a License to Land and Operate in the United States a Private Fiber Optic Submarine Cable System extending between the United States, Canada, Ireland, and the United Kingdom, SCL-LIC-19990804-00012, Cable Landing License, 15 FCC Rcd 765 (IB 2000). The Hibernia cable system entered into commercial service on May 4, 2001. *See* letter from Ulises Pin, counsel for Hibernia Atlantic U.S. LLC, to Marlene H. Dortch, FCC, filed in SCL-LIC-19990804-00012 (dated Aug. 27, 2018). In 2002, the Commission granted two modifications of the license, which were to add a new pro forma condition and to substitute the no exclusive arrangements condition in place at the time, with a new no special concessions condition. *See* Actions Taken Under Cable Landing License Act, SCL-MOD-20020412-00022, SCL-MOD-20020412-00023, Public Notice, 17 FCC Rcd 12916 (IB 2002). In 2009, a cable landing in Portrush (Coleraine), North Ireland was added to the cable system. *See* Actions Taken Under Cable Landing License Act, SCL-LIC-19990804-00012, Report No. SCL-00092, Public Notice, 24 FCC Rcd 10698 (IB 2009).

As set out in the application, the cable system has had several names and owners over the years. Most recently, the control of the cable system, which was known as GTT Atlantic System at the time, was transferred from GTT Communications, Inc. to Cube Telecom Europe US Bidco LLC, which is ultimately controlled by ISQ Holdings, LLC. *See* Actions Taken Under Cable Landing License Act, SCL-T/C-20201216-00048, Report No. SCL-00324, Public Notice, 36 FCC Rcd 11431 (IB 2021). Grant of the transfer of control was conditioned on Interoute US LLC and Cube Telecom Europe BidCo Limited abiding by the commitments and undertakings set forth in the July 1, 2021, Letter of Assurances from Anthony Hansel, SVP, Legal, Interoute US, LLC, and Mohamed El Gazzar, Director, Cube Telecom Europe BidCo Limited, to the Acting Under Secretary, Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the Principal Director of Chief Information Officer for Cybersecurity, U.S. Department of Defense (2021 LOA). *Id.* Following acquisition by ISQ Holdings, the cable system was renamed to the EXA North and South system. EXA North and South continues to be subject to the 2021 LOA.

Executive Branch Review.

We exercised our discretion and did not refer the application to the Executive Branch for national security, law enforcement, foreign policy and trade policy review. We found that the application presents a low or minimal risk to national security, law enforcement, foreign policy, and trade policy.

See Process Reform for Executive Branch Review of Certain FCC Applications and Petitions Involving Foreign Ownership, IB Docket 16-155, Report and Order, 35 FCC 10927, 10935-36, para. 24 (2020) (*Executive Branch Review Process Order*). Unlike most cable landing license applications, this application involves an existing facility with a mitigation agreement specific to the cable system and that was agreed to in 2021. The application does not propose any changes to the cable system since the 2021 LOA was entered into and there have been no substantive changes in the ownership since the 2021 LOA was entered into by the relevant parties. Further, the Applicant requests that the Commission condition grant of the application on its continued compliance with the 2021 LOA.

On February 26, 2026, the U.S. Department of Justice, filed a letter stating that the Committee for the Assessment of Foreign Participation in the United States Telecommunications Services Sector (Committee) “does not believe, based on available information, that a referral of this application to the Committee for review under Section 5 of Executive Order (“E.O.”) 13913 is necessary.” See Letter from Christopher R. Clements, Deputy Chief, Telecom and Supply Chain Foreign Investment Review Section, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice to Marlene H. Dortch, FCC, filed in SCL-RWL-20251124-00078 (dated Feb. 26, 2026).

While we did not refer the application, we provided a courtesy copy of the Accepted-For-Filing Public Notice to the Executive Branch agencies. *Public Notice* at 5; *see Executive Branch Review Process Order*, 35 FCC Rcd 10927, 10939, para. 30, n.81.

On March 16, 2026, the Office of International Affairs referred the application to the Department of State (State) as required by Executive Order No. 10530, pursuant to section 1.767(b) of the Commission’s rules, and consistent with the established Department of State procedures. Executive Order No. 10530, Section 5(a) reprinted as amended in 3 U.S.C. § 301; 47 CFR § 1.767(b); Commission Announces Department of State's Revised Procedures for its Consideration of Submarine Cable Landing License Applications, IB Docket No. 16-155, Public Notice, 37 FCC Rcd 5183 (2022). *See SCL-RWL-20251124-00078*, Streamlined Submarine Cable Landing License Applications, Accepted For Filing, Report No. SCL-00599S, Public Notice, DA 26-260 (OIA Mar. 19, 2026). The agency did not provide comment.

Action Taken.

Grant of a Cable Landing License to EXA Infrastructure US, LLC for a new 25-year term for the EXA North and South system, a noncommon carrier fiber optic submarine cable network connecting the United States with Canada, Ireland, and the United Kingdom. Grant of the application is conditioned on EXA Infrastructure US’s continued compliance with the commitments and undertakings contained in the July 1, 2021, Letter of Assurances from Anthony Hansel, SVP, Legal, Interoute US, LLC, and Mohamed El Gazzar, Director, Cube Telecom Europe BidCo Limited, to the Acting Under Secretary, Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the Principal Director of Chief Information Officer for Cybersecurity, U.S. Department of Defense.

Ownership of EXA Infrastructure.

EXA Infrastructure is wholly owned by Cube Telecom Europe (US BidCo), LLC (Cube Telecom US Bidco), both Delaware limited liability companies. Cube Telecom US Bidco is wholly owned by Cube Telecom Europe BidCo Limited (Cube Telecom Europe BidCo), an England and Wales holding company. Cube Telecom Europe BidCo is wholly owned by Cube Telecom Europe MidCo Limited which is wholly owned by Cube Telecom Europe TopCo Limited which, in turn is wholly owned by

Cube Telecom Europe Holdings Limited (Cube Telecom Europe Holdings), all England and Wales companies. Cube Telecom Europe Holdings is wholly owned by Cube Telecom Europe Aggregator, LLC (Cube Aggregator), a Cayman Islands limited liability company.

Cube Aggregator is owned by five investment funds (ISQ Funds): (1) ISQ Global Infrastructure Fund III (UST) AIV, L.P. (ISQ Fund III (UST) AIV) (14.11% direct equity and voting interest in Cube Aggregator); (2) ISQ Global Infrastructure Pooling III (USTE) AIV, L.P. (ISQ Pooling III (USTE) AIV), a Cayman Islands limited partnership (3.60% direct equity and voting interest in Cube Aggregator). ISQ Pooling III (USTE) AIV is an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of ISQ Global Infrastructure Fund III (USTE) AIV, L.P (ISQ Global Infrastructure Fund III (USTE) AIV), a Cayman Islands limited partnership; (3) ISQ Global Infrastructure Fund III AIV, L.P. (ISQ Fund III (USTE) AIV), a Cayman Islands limited partnership (32.61% direct equity and voting interest in Cube Aggregator); (4) ISQ Apollo Co-Invest Fund III, L.P. (ISQ Apollo Fund III), a Cayman Islands company (32.27% direct equity and voting interest in Cube Aggregator); and (5) ISQ Global Infrastructure Fund III (EU) AIV, L.P. (ISQ Global Fund III (EU) AIV), a Luxembourg limited partnership (17.40% direct equity and voting interest in Cube Aggregator).

ISQ Global Fund III GP, LLC (ISQ Global Fund III GP), a Delaware limited liability company, is the general partner of Cube Aggregator and each of the ISQ Funds, except ISQ Global Fund III (EU) AIV. ISQ Global Fund III Lux GP, S.à r.l. (ISQ Global Fund III Lux GP), a Luxembourg entity, is the general partner of ISQ Global Fund III (EU) AIV. ISQ Global Fund III GP and ISQ Global Fund III Lux GP are both wholly owned by ISQ Holdings, LLC (ISQ Holdings), a Cayman Islands limited liability company. ISQ Holdings is also the managing member of I Squared Capital, LLC, a Cayman Islands limited liability company, that wholly owns I Squared Capital Advisors (US) LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, that serves as the investment manager of the ISQ Funds. The managing members of ISQ Holdings are Mr. Gautam Bhandari, a U.S. citizen and Mr. Sadek M. Wahba, a citizen of the U.S., United Kingdom, and Egypt, with each holding 50% equity and voting interests and negative control in ISQ Holdings. According to the Applicant, no other individual or entity holds a 10% or greater direct or indirect equity or voting interest in EXA Infrastructure.

Cable System Design and Capacity.

EXA North and South is a non-common carrier submarine cable with a ring-configuration system consisting of four segments and a spur, each with four fiber pairs:

- Segment A connects Halifax, Canada to Southport, United Kingdom;
- Segment B is a spur that connects Portrush (Coleraine), Northern Ireland to Southport, United Kingdom;
- Segment C connects Dublin, Ireland to Southport, United Kingdom;
- Segment D connects Halifax, Canada to Dublin, Ireland; and
- Segment E connects Lynn, Massachusetts, United States, to Halifax, Canada.

The cable system has an estimated total capacity of 18.59 terabits per second (Tbps).

Cable Landings.

EXA North And South has landing points in (1) Lynn, Massachusetts, United States, (2) Halifax, Canada, (3) Southport, United Kingdom, (4) Portrush (Coleraine), Northern Ireland, United Kingdom, and (5) Dublin, Ireland.

Ownership of the System.

EXA North and South is owned and operated by EXA Infrastructure and affiliates of EXA Infrastructure that are all wholly owned by Cube Telecom Europe Bidco Limited, the indirect parent of EXA Infrastructure.

1. Lynn, Massachusetts, United States, to Halifax, Canada: EXA Infrastructure, 100% of the portion in U.S. territory; EXA Infrastructure Atlantic Canada Company (EXA Infrastructure Canada), 100% of the portion in Canadian territory, and EXA Infrastructure Atlantic UK Limited (EXA Infrastructure UK), 100% of the portion in international waters.
2. Halifax, Canada to Dublin, Ireland: EXA Infrastructure Canada, 100% of the portion in Canadian territory; EXA Infrastructure Atlantic Ireland Limited (EXA Infrastructure Ireland), 100% of the portion in Ireland territory, and EXA Infrastructure UK, 100% of the portion in international waters.
3. Halifax, Canada to Southport, United Kingdom: EXA Infrastructure Canada, 100% of the portion in Canadian territory; EXA Infrastructure UK, 100% of the portion in UK territory and 100% of the portion in international waters.
4. Portrush (Coleraine) to Southport, United Kingdom: EXA Infrastructure UK, 100% of the portion in United Kingdom (UK) territory and 100% of the portion in international waters.
5. Dublin, Ireland to Southport, United Kingdom: EXA Infrastructure Ireland, 100% of the portion in Ireland territory, EXA Infrastructure UK, 100% of the portion in UK territory and 100% of the portion in international waters.

EXA Infrastructure states that none of its affiliates will use the U.S. end of the system and thus are not required to be licensees on the EXA North and South under section 1.767(h)(2) of the Commission's rules. 47 CFR § 1.767(h)(2).

All of the cable landing stations for EXA North and South are existing facilities and are owned and controlled as follows

1. Lynn, Massachusetts: EXA Infrastructure
2. Halifax, Canada: EXA Infrastructure Canada
3. Southport, United Kingdom: EXA Infrastructure UK
4. Dublin, Ireland: EXA Infrastructure Ireland
5. Portrush (Coleraine), Northern Ireland: EXA Infrastructure UK

Regulatory Classification.

EXA North and South is currently operated on a non-common carrier basis. EXA Infrastructure proposes to continue to operate the cable on a non-common carrier basis.

The Applicant states it will not operate EXA North and South on a common carrier basis. EXA Infrastructure states that it does not sell capacity indifferently to the user public, but rather offers capacity on the EXA North and South system to third parties pursuant to individually-negotiated Indefeasible Rights of Use agreements (IRUs) and capacity leases, the terms of which will vary depending on the characteristics and needs of the particular capacity purchaser. The Applicant further states that the EXA North and South system competes vigorously with other submarine cable systems on North Atlantic routes, including FA-1, AEConnect-1, Amitié, Apollo, Atlantic Crossing-1, Dunant, Grace Hopper, Havfrue, Marea, TGN Atlantic, and Yellow/Atlantic Crossing-2, and will soon compete with other recently announced systems, including the Anjana and Nuvem systems. Thus, EXA Infrastructure contends that EXA North and South does not and will not function as a bottleneck facility on those routes.

The Applicant has provided information and demonstrated that the proposed operation of the cable on a non-common carrier basis satisfies the requirements set forth in *National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners v. FCC*, 525 F.2d 630, 642 (D.C. Cir 1976) (*NARUC I*), *cert. denied*, 425 U.S. 992 (1976). *See also Submarine Cable Landing License Report and Order*, 16 FCC Rcd at 22202-22203, paras. 69-70; Review of Commission Consideration of Applications under the Cable Landing License Act, IB Docket No. 00-106, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 15 FCC Rcd 20789, 20815-18, paras. 62-67 (2000).

Conditions and Requirements.

EXA Infrastructure certifies that it accepts and will abide by the routine conditions specified in Section 1.767(g) of the Commission's rules. 47 C.F.R. § 1.767(g).

We grant the Applicant's request and condition grant of the application on EXA Infrastructure's continued compliance with commitments and undertakings contained in the 2021 LOA. A copy of the 2021 LOA is publicly available and may be viewed on the FCC website through the International Communications Filing System (ICFS) by searching for the appropriate file number (SCL-RWL-20251124-00078) and accessing the "Attachments" tab in the Application Information page.

A failure to comply and/or remain in compliance with any of these commitments and undertakings shall constitute a failure to meet a condition of the cable landing license and thus grounds for declaring the license terminated without further action on the part of the Commission. Failure to meet a condition of the license may also result in monetary sanctions or other enforcement action by the Commission.

License Term.

The EXA North and South system is currently operating and its present license expires May 4, 2026. The new license will be effective upon the expiration of the present license and will expire on May 4, 2051.
