

Media Contact:

Tina Pelkey, (202) 418-0536

tina.pelkey@fcc.gov

For Immediate Release**CHAIRMAN PAI CIRCULATES DRAFT ORDER TO APPROVE
LIGADO'S APPLICATION TO FACILITATE 5G AND
INTERNET OF THINGS SERVICES*****Conditions Would Protect Incumbents from Harmful Interference***

WASHINGTON, April 16, 2020—Today, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai circulated to his colleagues a draft order that would approve with conditions Ligado's application to deploy a low-power terrestrial nationwide network in the L-Band that would primarily support 5G and Internet of Things services. This draft order would both promote more efficient and effective use of our nation's spectrum resources and ensure that adjacent band operations, including the Global Positioning System (GPS), are protected from harmful interference.

"After many years of consideration, it is time for the FCC to make a decision and bring this proceeding to a close," said Chairman Pai. "We have compiled an extensive record, which confirms that it is in the public interest to grant Ligado's application while imposing stringent conditions to prevent harmful interference. The draft order that I have presented to my colleagues would make more efficient use of underused spectrum and promote the deployment of 5G and Internet of Things services.

"Although I appreciate the concerns that have been raised by certain Executive Branch agencies, it is the Commission's duty to make an independent determination based on sound engineering. And based on the painstaking technical analysis done by our expert staff, I am convinced that the conditions outlined in this draft order would permit Ligado to move forward without causing harmful interference. For example, the draft order would authorize downlink operations at a power level that represents a greater than 99% reduction from what Ligado proposed in its 2015 application."

In recent years, Ligado has amended its application to significantly reduce the power levels of its base stations from 32 dBW to 9.8 dBW (a reduction of 99.3%). Ligado has also committed to providing a significant (23 megahertz) guard-band using its own licensed spectrum to further separate its terrestrial base station transmissions from neighboring operations in the Radionavigation-Satellite Service allocation. As such, Ligado is now only seeking terrestrial use of the 1526-1536 MHz, 1627.5-1637.5 MHz, and 1646.5-1656.5 MHz bands. The Order is conditioned to reflect these technical requirements. It also requires Ligado to protect adjacent band incumbents by reporting its base station locations and technical operating parameters to potentially affected government and industry stakeholders prior to commencing operations, continuously monitoring the transmit power of its base station sites, and complying with

procedures and actions for responding to credible reports of interference, including rapid shutdown of operations where warranted.

###

Media Relations: (202) 418-0500 / ASL: (844) 432-2275 / TTY: (888) 835-5322 / Twitter: @FCC / www.fcc.gov

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).