



NEWS FROM THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

FCC Announces Landmark Enforcement of Team Telecom Commitments

Consent Decree with FCC Licensee Marlink is First Ever Enforcement of Team Telecom Mitigation Agreement Violations

WASHINGTON, January 8, 2026—The FCC today announced a settlement agreement with satellite and earth-station operator Marlink for violating the terms of national security and law enforcement commitments made to the U.S. government. As the FCC often does with licenses, the FCC conditioned Marlink’s license on compliance with terms of a mitigation agreement with the Department of Justice on behalf of an interagency committee known informally as “Team Telecom.” Marlink violated those terms by allowing foreign employees to access U.S. communications infrastructure and customer information without seeking prior approval from DOJ as required under the agreement. Thanks to a DOJ referral, for the first time ever, the FCC enforced the terms of a Team Telecom mitigation agreement, getting Marlink to pay a voluntary contribution and adopt a compliance plan.

FCC Chairman Brendan Carr issued the following statement:

“The FCC and its federal partners are adding real teeth to Team Telecom mitigation agreements. Enforcing these obligations is critical to safeguarding the American people, domestic economy, and national security. We thank DOJ’s National Security Division for sending us this referral.”

Assistant Attorney General John Eisenberg issued the following statement:

“The promises that companies make to Team Telecom are binding and enforceable commitments to protect our Nation’s communications networks and the sensitive information that they carry from foreign adversaries seeking to exploit them,” said Assistant Attorney General John A. Eisenberg of the Justice Department’s National Security Division. “Today’s enforcement action sends a clear message that compliance is not optional. The Justice Department, as Chair of Team Telecom, remains committed to working with the FCC to protect our critical infrastructure and hold companies that violate the terms of their licenses to account.”

Additional Background:

The FCC and Marlink signed a settlement, formally known as a Consent Decree, under which the company will pay a voluntary contribution of \$175,000 to the U.S. Treasury and implement a robust compliance plan to ensure there is no further unauthorized foreign-employee access. Under its Letter of Agreement as part of a 2022 Team Telecom review, Marlink committed to implement strict controls on foreign-employee access to U.S. communications infrastructure and customer information, including an obligation to notify DOJ before granting such access to any foreign employee. However, the FCC’s investigation found that, due to an inadequate screening procedure, Marlink failed to submit at least 186 foreign employees for DOJ vetting. The FCC’s Enforcement Bureau, in coordination with the Office of International Affairs and the Space Bureau, led the

investigation following a DOJ referral which had found that prior access had apparently been granted without notification to the Department.

Today's settlement sets a strong precedent: the FCC will enforce Team Telecom mitigation commitments to protect American national security.

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