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## **Expansion of L-band and S-band Spectrum For Increased Terrestrial Use Considered**

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The FCC is seeking comment on a proposal to expand the L-band and S-band spectrum in which mobile satellite service (MSS) operator Globalstar, Inc. is authorized to operate ancillary terrestrial components (ATC). ATC allows MSS operators to integrate terrestrial services into their satellite networks in order to augment coverage in areas where their satellite signals are rendered largely unusable due to terrain blocking. ATC operations reuse the MSS operators' assigned satellite frequencies terrestrially.

The Commission first authorized the implementation of ATC in a 2003 *Order*. ATC operations, however, were limited to the 1610-1615.5 MHz, 1621.35-1626.5 MHz and 2492.5-2498 MHz Big LEO (low earth orbit) bands. Subsequently, the Commission shifted the S-band ATC block to 2487.5-2493 MHz, so that ATC and the Fixed and Mobile services allocation at 2495-2500 MHz would not overlap.

In the instant Notice of Proposed Rule Making (*NPRM*), the Commission solicits comment on expanding the L-band and S-band spectrum in which Globalstar is authorized to operate ATC. Such an expansion would enable Globalstar to provide a higher-capacity ATC than would be possible with its current 11 megahertz ATC assignment.

The Commission has tentatively concluded that ATC is not feasible in the L-band spectrum Globalstar shares with Iridium at 1617.775-1618.725 MHz. The Commission also tentatively concluded that ATC cannot share spectrum with co-primary Fixed and Mobile services in the 2495-2500 MHz segment of the S-band. It seeks comment on what measures would be needed to protect services with which MSS shares the S-band.

Comments on the *NPRM* were due on or before December 19, 2007, with Reply Comments due on or before January 3, 2008.