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FCC OK's ATC For MSS CDMA In The Big LEOs

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On April 10, 2008, the FCC released a “*Report and Order and Order Proposing Modification*” wherein it increased the amount of spectrum in which code division multiple access (CDMA) operators of Mobile-Satellite Service (MSS) low earth orbit satellite systems in the 1.6/2.4 GHz bands (the Big LEO bands) may provide ancillary terrestrial component (ATC) service. The Big LEO L-band spectrum available for ATC was expanded from 1610-1615.5 MHz to 1610-1617.775 MHz. The Big LEO S-band ATC spectrum was expanded from 2487.5-2493 MHz to 2483.5-2495 MHz. The FCC also adopted rules to prevent ATC operations from causing interference to other services in these and adjacent bands. In order to implement this decision, the FCC proposes to modify the ATC authorization of Globalstar, Inc. (Globalstar) pursuant to Section 316 of the Communications Act. The FCC believes its decision will enable CDMA Big LEO MSS/ATC systems to provide improved service to customers, particularly in urban and underserved rural areas of the United States.

Globalstar disclosed that it has entered into an MSS/ATC partnership with Open Range Communications, Inc. (Open Range). Open Range plans to build an advanced wireless network largely in rural areas of the country. Globalstar intends to offer broadband service to rural areas using its MSS satellite network and Open Range’s terrestrial network to provide mobile broadband service. Globalstar contends that deployment of ATC in urban areas will enable it to overcome structure blockage and that transportable base stations in combination with its satellite network will enable it to provide communications when terrestrial-only services are disabled or overloaded. Globalstar also intends to expand service to military and civilian users in the Middle East and Southwest Asia with its MSS/ATC network.

In order to ensure that ATC operations in the S-band do not cause harmful interference to Broadband Radio Service (BRS) Channel 1 operations in the 2496-2502 MHz band, Globalstar will be required to adhere to the out-of-band emission standards applicable to BRS/Educational Broadband Service (EBS) licensees, measured from the upper edge of Globalstar’s ATC authorization at 2495 MHz. There will be an absolute obligation on

ATC operations to eliminate any harmful interference to BRS that may nevertheless occur. ATC operators must also resolve any complaints of harmful interference to other authorized services in and adjacent to the S-band, including grandfathered Broadcast Auxiliary Service (BAS) and private radio operations.