

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

A. Justification:

1. *Circumstances that make collection necessary.* The Federal Communications Commission requests that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approve a revision of the information collection titled "Part 25 of the Federal Communications Commission's Rules Governing the Licensing of, and Spectrum Usage By, Commercial Earth Stations and Space Stations" under OMB Control No. 3060-0678, as a result of a recent rulemaking discussed below.

On August 2, 2019, the Commission released a Report and Order, FCC 19-81, in IB Docket No. 18-86, titled "Streamlining Licensing Procedures for Small Satellites" (*Small Satellite Report and Order*). In this Report and Order, the Commission adopted a new alternative, optional licensing process for small satellites and spacecraft, called the "Part 25 streamlined small satellite process." This new process allows qualifying applicants for small satellites and spacecraft to take advantage of an easier application process, a lower application fee, and a shorter timeline for review than currently exists for applicants under the Commission's existing Part 25 satellite licensing rules. The Commission limited the regulatory burdens borne by applicants, while promoting orbital debris mitigation and efficient use of spectrum. The Commission's action supports and encourages the increasing innovation in the small satellite sector and helps to preserve U.S. leadership in space-based services and operations. This information collection will provide the Commission and the public with necessary information about the operations of this growing area of satellite operations. While this information collection represents an overall increase in the burden hours, the increase is due to an anticipated overall increase in number of applications as a result of additional applications being filed under the streamlined process adopted in the *Small Satellite Report and Order*. This information collection represents a decrease in the paperwork burdens for individual operators of non-geostationary orbit (NGSO) satellites who may now qualify for streamlined processing as small satellites, and serves the public interest by streamlining the collection of information and allowing the Commission to authorize small satellites and spacecraft under the new process established in the Report and Order.

Specifically, FCC 19-81 contains new or modified information collection requirements listed below:

- (1) Space station application requirements for qualifying small satellites and small spacecraft have been specified in new sections 25.122 and 25.123, respectively. These new sections, including the certifications, incorporate some existing information requirements from other sections, but eliminate the need for small satellite and spacecraft applicants to provide much of the information that part 25 space station applicants would typically be required to provide in narrative format under section 25.114(d). The new or modified informational requirements in sections 25.122 and 25.123 are listed as follows:
 - a. For small satellite applications filed under section 25.122, a certification that the space stations will operate in non-geostationary orbit, or for small spacecraft applications filed under section 25.123, a certification that the space station(s) will operate and be disposed of beyond Earth's orbit.
 - b. A certification that the total in-orbit lifetime for any individual space station will be six years or less.
 - c. For small satellite applications filed under 25.122, a certification that the space station(s) will either be deployed at an orbital altitude of 600 km or below, or will maintain a propulsions system and have the ability to make collision avoidance and deorbit maneuvers using propulsion. This certification will not apply to small spacecraft applications filed under section 25.123.

- (4) Frequency of response: One time.
- (5) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 30 hours (15 responses x 2 hours/response = 30 hours).

b. NGSO FSS Applications (47 C.F.R. §§ 25.114(d)(12), 25.146)

- (1) Number of respondents: 4.
- (2) Number of responses: 4.
- (3) Frequency of response: One time and on occasion.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 20 hours (4 response x 5 hours/response = 20 hours).

c. Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) Applications (47 C.F.R. §§ 25.114(d)(11), (13), (18), 25.148)

- (1) Number of respondents: 1.
- (2) Number of responses: 1.
- (3) Frequency of response: One time.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 8 hours (1 response x 8 hours/response = 8 hours).

d. 17/24 GHz Broadcasting-Satellite Service (BSS) Applications (47 C.F.R. §§ 25.114(d)(7), (15)-(18), 25.140(b), (c), 25.264)

- (1) Number of respondents: 2.
- (2) Number of responses: 2.
- (3) Frequency of response: One time.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 156 hours (2 responses x 78 hours/response = 156 hours).

e. SDARS Applications (47 C.F.R. § 25.144(a))

- (1) Number of respondents: 1.
- (2) Number of responses: 1.
- (3) Frequency of response: One time.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 1 hour (1 respondent x 1 hour/response = 1 hour).

f. GSO MSS Applications (47 C.F.R. § 25.143(b))

- (1) Number of respondents: 1.
- (2) Number of responses: 1.
- (3) Frequency of response: One time.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 4 hours (1 response x 4 hours/response = 4 hours).

B. Assignments (47 C.F.R. §§ 25.119, 25.137(g))

1. Space Station

- (1) Number of respondents: 3.
- (2) Number of responses: 3.
- (3) Frequency of response: One time.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 27 hours (3 operators x 9 hours/response = 27 hours).

2. Earth Station

- (1) Number of respondents: 120.
- (2) Number of responses: 120.
- (3) Frequency of response: One time.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 1,080 hours (120 responses x 9 hours/response = 1,080 hours).

V. Applications for Special Temporary Authority (Form 312) (47 C.F.R. § 25.120)

A. Space Station

- (1) Number of respondents: 54.
- (2) Number of responses: 54.
- (3) Frequency of response: On occasion.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 432 hours (54 responses x 8 hours/response = 432 hours).

B. Earth Station

- (5) Number of respondents: 296.
- (6) Number of responses: 296.
- (7) Frequency of response: On occasion.
- (8) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 2,368 hours (296 responses x 8 hours/response = 2,368 hours).

VI. Earth Station License Renewals (FCC Form 312-R) (47 C.F.R. §§ 25.115(b)(7), 25.121(e))

- (1) Number of respondents: 399.
- (2) Number of responses: 399.
- (3) Frequency of response: On occasion.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 798 hours (399 operators x 2 hours/response = 798 hours).

VII. Surrenders of Authorizations

A. Space Station

- (1) Number of respondents: 1.
- (2) Number of responses: 1.
- (3) Frequency of response: One time.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 1 hour (1 response x 1 hour/response = 1 hour).

B. Earth Station

- (1) Number of respondents: 208.
- (2) Number of responses: 208.
- (3) Frequency of response: One time.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 208 hours (208 responses x 1 hour/response = 208 hours).

VIII. Annual Reporting Requirements for Space Station Operators (47 C.F.R. § 25.170)

- (1) Number of respondents: 38.
- (2) Number of responses: 38.
- (3) Frequency of response: Annual.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 304 hours (38 responses x 8 hours = 304 hours).

IX. General Notification Requirements

A. Commence Construction at Own Risk (47 C.F.R. §§ 25.113(b) and (f))

- (1) Number of respondents: 4.
- (2) Number of responses: 4.
- (3) Frequency of response: One time.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 4 hours (4 responses x 1 hour/response = 4 hours).

B. Bringing In-Orbit Spare into Use (47 C.F.R. § 25.113(h))

- (1) Number of respondents: 3.
- (2) Number of responses: 3.
- (3) Frequency of response: On occasion.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 1.5 hours (3 responses x .5 hours/response = 1.5 hours).

C. NGSO Replacement Satellites (47 C.F.R. § 25.113(i))

- (1) Number of respondents: 4.
- (2) Number of responses: 4.
- (3) Frequency of response: On occasion.

- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 8 hours (4 responses x 2 hours/response = 8 hours).

D. Modification of Space Station Operation Not Requiring Prior Authorization (47 C.F.R. § 25.118(e), (f))

- (1) Number of respondents: 4.
(2) Number of responses: 4.
(3) Frequency of response: On occasion.
(4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 8 hours (4 responses x 2 hours/response = 8 hours).

E. Modifications of Earth Station Operation Not Requiring Prior Authorization (47 C.F.R. § 25.118(a))

- (1) Number of respondents: 10.
(2) Number of responses: 10.
(3) Frequency of response: On occasion.
(4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 80 hours (10 responses x 8 hours/response = 80 hours).

F. Temporary-Fixed Operation Local Coordination Reports (47 C.F.R. § 25.277(c))

- (1) Number of respondents: 100.
(2) Number of responses: 100.
(3) Frequency of response: On occasion.
(4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 800 hours (100 responses x 8 hours/response = 800 hours).

G. Completion of Earth Station Construction (47 C.F.R. §§ 25.133(b) and (d))

- (1) Number of respondents: 699.
(2) Number of responses: 699.
(3) Frequency of response: One time.
(4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 699 hours (699 responses x 1 hour/response = 699 hours).

H. ATC Service Initiation Notice (47 C.F.R. § 25.149(f))

- (1) Number of respondents: 1.
(2) Number of responses: 1.
(3) Frequency of response: One time.
(4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 1 hour (1 response x 1 hour/response = 1 hour).

I. Ka-Band Space Station Operators' Notification (47 C.F.R. § 25.258; see also FCC 96-311)

- (1) Number of respondents: 6.
- (2) Number of responses: 6.
- (3) Frequency of response: Third party disclosure.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 6 hours (6 responses x 1 hour/response = 6 hours).

J. Consummation of Transfer and Control or Assignment (47 C.F.R. § 25.119(f))

- (1) Number of respondents: 365.
- (2) Number of responses: 365.
- (3) Frequency of response: One time.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 365 hours (365 responses x 1 hour/response = 365 hours).

K. Results of In-Orbit Testing (47 C.F.R. § 25.173)

- (1) Number of respondents: 5.
- (2) Number of responses: 5.
- (3) Frequency of response: One time.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 5 hours (5 responses x 1 hour/response = 5 hours).

L. Contact Information Update (47 C.F.R. §§ 25.171, 25.172, 25.259(b), 25.260(b), 25.271(f))

- (1) Number of respondents: 25.
- (2) Number of responses: 25.
- (3) Frequency of response: On occasion.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 12.5 hours (25 responses x .5 hour/response = 12.5 hours).

M. Notification of Non-Routine Space Station Operation (47 C.F.R. § 25.140(d))

- (1) Number of respondents: 6.
- (2) Number of responses: 6.
- (3) Frequency of response: On occasion.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 12 hours (6 responses x 2 hours/response = 12 hours).

N. Third Party Disclosures Requirements

1. SDARS (47 C.F.R. § 25.263(b))

- (1) Number of respondents: 1.
- (2) Number of responses: 25.
- (3) Frequency of response: Third party disclosure.

- (1) Number of respondents: 5.
- (2) Number of responses: 5.
- (3) Frequency of response: One time.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 5 hours (5 responses x 1 hour/response = 5 hours).

B. NGSO Launch and Operate Milestone (47 C.F.R. § 25.164(f))

- (1) Number of respondents: 1.
- (2) Number of responses: 2.
- (3) Frequency of response: Two time.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 2 hours (2 response x 1 hour/response = 2 hours).

C. Application-Stage Bond (47 C.F.R. § 25.165(f))

- (1) Number of respondents: 29.
- (2) Number of responses: 29.
- (3) Frequency of response: One time.
- (4) Annual hour burden per respondent: The total annual hour burden is 58 hours (29 responses x 2 hours/response = 58 hours).

D. Post-Licensing Bond (47 C.F.R. § 25.165(a))

- (1) Number of respondents: 5.
- (2) Number of responses: 5.
- (3) Frequency of response: On occasion.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 10 hours (5 responses x 2 hours/response = 10 hours).

XI. Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite/E911 Call Centers (47 C.F.R. § 25.284)

- (1) Number of respondents: 4.
- (2) Number of responses: 4.
- (3) Frequency of response: Annual.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 4 hours (4 responses x 1 hour/response = 4 hours).

XII. Recordkeeping Requirement (47 C.F.R. §§ 25.115(e)(2), (f), (g)(1), 25.263(c), 25.284)

- (1) Number of respondents: 4.
- (2) Number of responses: 4.
- (3) Frequency of response: Recordkeeping requirement.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 2 hours (4 responses x .5 hours = 2 hours).

XIII. 3.7-4.2 GHz Information Collection Order (FCC 18-91)

A. Additional Information on Temporary Fixed Earth Stations in 3.7-4.2 GHz (FCC 18-91)

- (1) Number of respondents: 70.
- (2) Number of responses: 70.
- (3) Frequency of response: One time.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 420 hours (70 responses x 6 hours/response = 420 hours).

B. Additional Information on Space Stations in 3.7-4.2 GHz (FCC 18-91)

- (1) Number of respondents: 49.³
- (2) Number of responses: 49.
- (3) Frequency of response: One time.
- (4) Annual hour burden: The total annual hour burden is 1,960 hours (49 responses x 40 hours/response = 1,960 hours).

XIV. TOTALS: (COMPLETE)

Total number of respondents: **6,524.**

Total number of responses: **6,573.**

Range of hours per response: **.5-80.**

Total number of burden hours: **44,992**

TOTAL "In-house Cost" – In-house staff who will be working on the information collection requirements contained in the chart above is estimated to have an hourly salary of \$60/hour. Therefore, the in-house costs to respondents are **44,992** (total burden hours) x \$60/hour = **\$2,699,520.**

13. *Estimates of the cost burden of the collection to respondents.* Respondents are assumed to use outside legal or engineering assistance to complete their filing with the Commission. This is because, in addition to their in-house legal and engineering staffs, space station and earth station operators often rely on outside attorneys and engineers to assist with some of the information collection requirements in Part 25. We estimate that the hourly rates for outside legal and engineering assistance are \$300/hour and \$250/hour, respectively. These figures are based on a small survey of local firms in the Washington, D.C. area and are conservative estimates. Because outside attorneys and engineers are used in approximately equal proportions, we use an average rate of \$275/hour to arrive at the cost burden for outside assistance. The amount of hourly work performed by outside parties varies with the type and complexity of the application. Based on our experience, we estimate that operators will engage outside attorneys and engineers in preparing 1,171 of the total number of responses filed annually, with an average of 8.8 hours spent per response. Consequently, the total cost burden for outside assistance is **\$2,833,820** (\$275 x 1,171 responses x 8.8 hours per response).

Application Filing Fees⁴: \$13,778,766. This estimate is based on actual Commission filings over the past several years, as well as estimates of the number of filings under the new small satellite

³ Respondents are calculated on a per-space station basis.

⁴ See Appendix A for a table of calculations.

GS-12/Step 5 Telecom Specialist	2	\$45.29	2,011	\$182,156.38
Total	29		12,800	\$2,350,669.44

15. *Program changes or adjustments.* The Commission has the following program changes to this collection as a result of the information collection requirements adopted in FCC 19-81: +8 to the number of respondents, +8 to the total annual responses and +148 to the annual burden hours, and -\$311,895 to the annual cost. We estimate that there will be approximately 8 additional respondents as a result of the program changes adopted in FCC 19-81, and 8 corresponding additional responses. Although the overall annual burden hours have increased as a result of the additional number of responses, we expect that some respondents will experience a decrease in burden hours on an individualized basis from what they would have experienced prior to the program changes adopted in FCC 19-81. The program changes resulting in a change to the annual cost of -\$311,895 include: (1) a change to the estimated cost of outside legal or engineering assistance of +\$9,680 to reflect the increased number of overall estimated respondents and responses; and (2) a change to estimated application filing fees of -\$321,575 to reflect the creation of a new application fee category which may result in some applicants paying a lower filing fee in this new application fee category than the applicants would have paid under the prior application fee schedule.

This collection was also adjusted as follows: +4 to the number of respondents, +4 to the total annual responses, -192 to the annual burden hours, and -\$180,722 to the annual cost. The adjustments to the number of respondents, responses, and burden hours are a result of corrections to the numbers specified in the existing information collection. The adjustments resulting in a change to the annual cost of -\$180,722 include: (1) an adjustment of +\$838,572 to reflect the application fee costs from the most current application fee filing schedule; and (2) an adjustment of -\$1,019,295 to reflect a correction in the number of estimated application fee filers for FSS GSO and FSS NGSO initial space station licenses to reflect only applicants for U.S.-licenses, consistent with the description for the number of respondents in these categories.

16. *Collections of information whose results will be published.* The data will not be published for statistical use.

17. *Display of expiration date for OMB approval of information collection.* We continue to seek a waiver of the requirement to display the expiration date of OMB approval on the FCC Form 312 (including associated Schedules A, B, and S), FCC Form 312 EZ, and FCC Form 312-R and wish to instead display an edition date. If these forms remain unchanged when it is time to renew OMB approval for this collection, the Commission would be required to destroy all stock on hand displaying the old expiration dates and then reprint and redistribute the forms with the new expiration date. Additionally, it would require the Commission to modify the electronic versions as well. This would be an undue burden on Commission resources and may lead to confusion among licensees.

18. *Exceptions to the certification statement for Paperwork Reduction Act submissions.* There are no exceptions to the Certification Statement.

B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods:

No statistical methods are employed.

APPENDIX

Application Costs (in Dollars)⁵

Type of Filing	No. of Applications	Filing Fee	Subtotals	Totals
I. Applications for Initial Licenses				
a. Space Stations:				
GSO	6	136,930.00	821,580.00	
NGSO	3	471,575.00	1,414,725.00	
Small Satellite	5	30,000.00	150,000.00	
				2,386,305.00
b. Earth Stations:				
Single		2,985.00		
Lead		6,615.00		
Blanket		11,015.00		
(average earth station application fee)	1,493	6,871.67		10,259,403.31
II. Modifications of Existing Licenses				
a. Space Station				
GSO	27	9,785.00	264,195.00	
NGSO	2	33,685.00	67,370.00	
				331,565.00
b. Earth Station	149	210.00		31,290.00
III. Amendments of Pending Applications				
a. Space Station				
GSO	8	1,960.00	15,680.00	
NGSO	2	6,740.00	13,480.00	
				29,160.00
b. Earth Station	57	210.00		11,970.00

⁵ See 47 C.F.R. § 1.1107.

Part 25 of the Federal Communications Commission's Rules **OMB Control No. 3060-0678**
Governing the Licensing of, and Spectrum Usage by,
Commercial Earth Stations and Space Stations **December 2019**

IV. Transfers of Control and Assignments				
A. Transfers of Control (T/C)				
a. Space Station				
GSO	3	9,785.00	29,355.00	
NGSO	1	13,480.00	13,480.00	
				42,835.00
b. Earth Station		590.00		
		2,945.00		
(average earth station T/C fee)	131	1,767.50		231,542.50
B. Assignments				
a. Space Station	3	9,785.00		29,355.00
b. Earth Station	120	1,767.50		212,100.00
V. Applications for Special Temporary Authority				
a. Space Station				
GSO	48	980.00	47,040.00	
NGSO	6	3,375.00	20,250.00	
				67,290.00
b. Earth Station	296	210.00		62,160.00
VI. Earth Station License Renewals	399	210.00		83,790.00
Totals				\$13,778,765.81⁶

⁶ \$13,778,765.81 was rounded to \$13,778,766.