

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

A. Justification

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.

The Launch Communications Act, Public Law 118-85, 138 Stat. 1546, enacted September 26, 2024, required the Commission to adopt regulations allocating the 2025-2110 MHz, 2200-2290 MHz, and 2360-2395 MHz frequency bands on a secondary basis for commercial space launch and reentry operations, and adopt service rules including technical specifications, eligibility requirements, and coordination procedures to preserve the defense capabilities of the United States.

At the time the legislation was passed, the Commission had already partly fulfilled its mandate. On September 22, 2023, the Commission released a Second Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 23-76, in ET Docket No. 13-115, allocating two of the three bands addressed in the Launch Communications Act, the 2025–2110 MHz and 2200–2290 MHz bands, for space launch operations, and creating a new rule part to govern these operations, part 26, Space Launch Services, including licensing and service rules.

On December 31, 2024, the Commission released a Third Report and Order, FCC 24-132, in ET Docket No. 13-115, modifying its rules with respect to the third band, the 2360–2395 MHz band (2.3 GHz band). Specifically, the Third Report and Order allocated the band for space launch operations and brought these operations in the 2.3 GHz band under the regulatory framework of the new part 26, in compliance with the mandate of the Launch Communications Act.

Under the part 26 framework established by the Commission, eligible space launch operators seeking authorization to use frequencies available for Space Launch Services must first apply for and obtain a non-exclusive 10-year nationwide spectrum license. After they obtain this license, operators must, for each launch (1) register in ULS the launch site and each corresponding station (fixed, base, itinerant, or mobile) that will be used in the space launch operation; (2) complete a frequency coordination process using a third-party frequency coordinator; and (3) following successful coordination, register in ULS the final approved technical and operating parameters associated with the coordinated launch prior to commencing the launch operation. This collection of information covers requirements for the second step: completing a frequency coordination process using a third-party frequency coordinator.

While the Commission's rules created the basic framework for the licensing, coordination, and authorization of space operations, the Commission also delegated authority to the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) to further specify application, licensing, registration, and frequency coordination procedures. On March 25, 2025, WTB, acting under its delegated authority, released two Public Notices. The first, DA 25-270 (Space Launch Public Notice), established detailed licensing, registration, and coordination procedures for the Space Launch Services consistent with the part 26 rules.

The second, DA 25-269 (Coordinator Selection Public Notice), established a mechanism and criteria for selecting the third-party frequency coordinator.

The Commission is now requesting OMB approval for a new information collection to enable and support the second step of the Commission's framework: frequency coordination of a launch operation using the frequency coordinator, including the specific requirements described below. Other steps in the part 26 framework are implemented through FCC Form 601 or its schedules, and are addressed as part of the information collection associated with that form.

Section 26.202 provides that each Space Launch Services licensee must, for each proposed launch operation, submit the technical and operational parameters of the launch to the space launch frequency coordinator, in order to initiate post-grant frequency coordination. Any changes to the technical and operational parameters for a launch event that occur after completion of post-grant frequency coordination also require coordination, and these changes shall be provided to initiate an updated post-frequency grant coordination.

The *Space Launch Public Notice* elaborates that coordination requests must include:

1. Name of licensee;
2. License call sign;
3. Primary and alternate point of contact for questions;
4. Previously registered launch site where launch will take place and corresponding site details;
5. Previously registered itinerant and mobile stations to be used in the launch and corresponding station details;
6. Previously registered fixed and base stations to be used in the launch and corresponding station details;
7. Transmitter characteristics for each transmit station (center frequency), including:
 - a. Transmitter make/model;
 - b. Output power;
 - c. Antenna type (e.g., blade, parabolic);
 - d. Number of antennas deployed;
 - e. Antenna gain;
 - f. Width of beam in degrees at half-power point;
 - g. Frequency tolerance;
 - h. Orientation in horizontal/vertical planes (if the antenna is tracking, state "tracking");
 - i. Antenna polarization;
 - j. Antenna azimuth (if the antenna is tracking, state "tracking");
 - k. Antenna elevation angle (if the antenna is tracking, state "tracking");
 - l. For fixed and base stations, projected space launch tracking arc path;
 - m. For fixed and base stations, the height AGL to the radiation center when the antenna is pointed along the horizon;
 - n. For mobile and itinerant stations, maximum antenna height AGL;
 - o. EIRP (per individual antenna);
 - p. Total EIRP (from all radiating sources using a specific location); and
 - q. Emission designator.
8. Emission details for each designator of each transmitter, including:
 - a. Emission bandwidth;
 - b. Modulating signal, including:
 - i. Modulation type (e.g., BPSK, QPSK, APK, FSK, Analog);
 - ii. If it is a digital signal, the final symbol rate in symbols/second after all overhead

- encoding or the final bit rate in bits/second after all overhead encoding;
 - iii. If FSK, include the type of FSK and the peak-to-peak frequency deviation as well as the final symbol rate or final bit rate; and
 - iv. Indicate whether the signal has subcarriers and, if so, which ones are used;
 - c. RF fundamental emission data (two-sided) including a minimum of -3 dB, -20 dB, and -60 dB bandwidth data points; and
 - d. Description of any signal filtering techniques employed.
9. Launch details, including:
- a. Name of launch vehicle;
 - b. Launch mission name and/or designator number;
 - c. Launch and reentry date/time window (primary and backup), including launch window open time, and the duration of each window;
 - d. List of objects to achieve orbit during launch operation, if applicable;
 - e. Total elapsed time from launch to end of transmission;
 - f. Requested frequencies used for launch and reentry, including required center frequency(ies);
 - g. Orbital location (orbit insertion), if applicable;
 - h. Mean launch azimuth (degrees, clockwise from the North);
 - i. Ground track from lift-off until end of transmission;
 - j. ECF Cartesian Vectors Format (position and velocity vs. time or position, velocity, and acceleration vs. time) in one minute time steps (at least) for each phase of launch through the end of transmission;
 - k. A plot image of the two-dimensional ground track of the launch vehicle including demarcations for important mission events (e.g., main engine cut-off (MECO), stage separation, payload jettison, passivation);
 - l. Duration of transmission(s), to include on/off time (nominal and maximum durations) for each transmitter and receiving station(s) corresponding to the on/off times, if applicable;
 - m. Trajectory (azimuth, heading) of the launch (i.e., expected launch vehicle flight profile);
 - n. Reentry landing zone, if applicable;
 - o. If applicable, expected reentry coordinates and the landing trajectory (from the reentry point) of reusable launch vehicles and boosters;
 - p. Maximum heights above ground level and above sea level for both launch and reentry activity; and
 - q. Operational contact information, including name, e-mail address, and telephone number.
10. Name and location of each relay satellite station supporting launch operation;
11. Ground receiver sensitivity and selectivity; and
12. Antenna gain to noise temperature ratio (G/T) for each ground station used for reception of launch vehicle telemetry.

Selection of the Space Launch Frequency Coordinator. The process for selecting the Space Launch Frequency Coordinator is established in a Public Notice, DA 25-269, released March 25, 2025 (*Coordinator Selection Public Notice*). Under this process, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau will issue a Public Notice announcing the opening of a filing window for interested parties to submit applications. Interested parties will be required to submit an application in the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), specifically in WT Docket No. 24-687. Applications must include the following information:

- A description of the entity requesting to be the space launch frequency coordinator and its qualifications, including how it meets or will meet minimum qualifying criteria;
- How the applicant will prevent conflicts of interest;
- A proposed fee structure, and how it will assess fees in a neutral and non-discriminatory manner; and

- The length of time before the applicant will be able to begin duties as the space launch frequency coordinator.

Regarding minimum qualifying criteria, applicants are required to demonstrate that they meet the following qualifications:

1. Ability to implement a mechanism to receive technical data from licensees and maintain a database of transmitter locations and operational parameters;
2. Knowledge of or experience with wireless telemetry;
3. Knowledge of or experience with space launch and aerospace transmissions;
4. Technical expertise in analyzing and avoiding interference between licensees/operators in various frequency bands;
5. Knowledge of frequency coordination processes;
6. Willingness and capability to complete coordination using machine-to-machine interface with any NTIA automated coordination process, and the ability to promptly notify the licensee of the response from the automated coordination process;
7. Ability to address requests for operation at launch sites that potentially could be located anywhere in the United States and its territories; and
8. Experience analyzing and interpreting FCC rules and policies.

Regarding conflicts of interest, applicants must describe any interest held in FCC licenses, including interests held through a subsidiary or affiliate, and similarly adopt a requirement that applicants disclose how it will prevent personal or organizational conflicts of interest. Further, they must disclose any interests, activities, or relationships involving FCC licensees that may implicate personal or organizational conflicts of interest, and disclose any interests, activities, or relationships specifically involving space launch operators that may implicate personal or organizational conflicts of interest. Finally, each applicant must explain in detail how it will carry out its duties as space launch frequency coordinator in a neutral and nondiscriminatory manner.

In connection with fee structure, an applicant seeking to become the space launch frequency coordinator on a for-profit basis must include a description of its anticipated costs, as well as the proposed mark-up for services to be provided. If an applicant proposes to collect the fees charged by incumbent non-federal coordinators, in addition to its own fees, it must explain how it will collect and distribute the fees charged by incumbent coordinators.

Parties eligible to file space launch frequency applications are limited to non-federal entities that conduct space launch operations, or the parent or subsidiary of such an entity if either conducts space launch operations. Accordingly, this information collection requirement does not affect individuals or households; thus, there is no impact under the Privacy Act.

The Commission is now submitting this new information collection to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to obtain the full three-year clearance.

Statutory authority for this information collection is contained in 47 U.S.C. §§ 151, 152, 154(i), 155(c), 301, 303(c), 303(f), and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934 as amended, and section 2 of the Launch Communications Act, Pub. L. No. 118-85, 138 Stat. 1546 § 2.

2. Indicate how, by whom and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.

Information submitted to the frequency coordinator will enable the coordinator to complete the

coordination of the use of frequencies for a particular launch, to ensure that other authorized uses are protected. In the process for selecting the space launch frequency coordinator, the Commission will collect information from applicants to determine whether they meet the qualifications to be the frequency coordinator for the Space Launch Service.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision of adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce the burden.

The FCC believes information technology will reduce the burden on the public, as the frequency coordinator will collect coordination request information via electronic means. Similarly, applications to be frequency coordinator will be submitted electronically in the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.

The space launch coordination process and coordinator selection process were established by the Second and Third Report and Orders and the Public Notices released by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and all associated information collection requirements are new. Therefore, there is no similar data available and there is no duplication of effort by the FCC or any other agency.

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize the burden.

As the coordination requirements and coordinator selection procedures resulting from the Second Report and Order and Third Report and Order are necessary to enable the successful sharing of spectrum in the band, they will apply to all entities in the same manner. The Commission does not believe that the costs and/or administrative burdens associated with the coordination process will unduly burden small entities.

6. Describe the consequence to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

If space launch operators did not provide coordination information for a launch, the frequency coordinator would not be able to determine if the associated use of spectrum would be compatible with other incumbent federal and non-federal uses.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the general information collection guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.5 (e.g. payment to respondents, disclosure of proprietary information, etc.):

Space operators will be required to submit coordination request information to the frequency coordinator for each individual space launch operation, which may happen more often than quarterly.

8. (a) If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments.

Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.

(b) Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

(c) Consultation with representatives of those from whom information is to be obtained, or those who must compile records, should occur at least once every three years -- even if the collection of information activity is the same as in prior periods. There may be circumstances that mitigate against consultation in a specific situation. These circumstances should be explained.

The Commission published a notice in the Federal Register (91 FR 53862) on August 20, 2026, seeking comments from the public on information collection requirements contained in this collection. One comment was received, identifying a typographical error in certain citations of the coordination rule, where the rule was cited as section 26.220 rather than section 26.202. The errors have been corrected.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No payment or gift was provided to the respondents that is associated with this collection of information.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

Parties applying to be space launch frequency coordinators will be required to demonstrate the willingness and ability to secure the information submitted by part 26 applicants and, unless otherwise required by law, to share such information only with NTIA/related incumbent federal coordinators, the government agencies comprising the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee, the Commission, and applicable non-federal frequency coordinators necessary to complete frequency coordination.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

This information collection does not raise any questions or issues of a sensitive nature.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. If the hour burden on respondents is expected to vary widely because of differences in activity, size, or complexity, show the range of estimated hour burden, and explain the reasons for the variance.

Provide estimates of annualized costs to respondents for the hour burdens for collection of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories. The cost of contracting out or paying out-side parties for information collection activities should not be included here. Instead, this cost should be included in Item 13.

- a. *Coordination (47 C.F.R. § 26.202)*. It is estimated that approximately 200 requests for coordination by 24 applicants will be filed with the frequency coordinator annually and that, for each launch operation, preparation and submission of the data to the coordinator will require four

hours.

$$200 \text{ responses} \times 4 \text{ hrs/coordination} = 800 \text{ hours/year}$$

- b. *Coordinator application.* It is estimated that three applications to be frequency coordinator will be filed, one time, with the Commission, and that preparation and filing of the application will require 16 hours.

$$3 \text{ applications} \times 16 \text{ hours/request} = 48 \text{ hours}$$

$$\text{Total Annual Burden Hours:} \quad 200 + 48 = 848 \text{ hours}$$

$$\text{Total Number of Respondents:} \quad 24 + 3 = 27 \text{ respondents}$$

$$\text{Total Number of Annual Responses:} \quad 200 + 3 = 203 \text{ responses}$$

The Commission estimates that companies will complete these filings themselves use personnel comparable in pay to a mid-to-senior level federal employee (GS-13, Step 5) to prepare the collection, we estimate the cost to be about \$66.14 per hour.

The annual cost is $848 \text{ hours} \times \$66.14/\text{hr.} = \$56,086.72$.

Total Annual In-House Cost to Respondents = \$56,085.72

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information. Do not include the cost of any burden hours shown in items 12 and 14.

We estimate that requests for coordination submitted to the space launch frequency coordinator will require payment to the coordinator of an average of \$1,500 per coordination request.

$$200 \text{ requests} \times \$1,500/\text{request} = \$300,000$$

Total annual cost burden to respondents = \$300,000

14. Provide estimates of annualized costs to the Federal government.

- a. *Coordination:* Coordination requests will be submitted to a third party frequency coordinator rather than the government. Accordingly, there is no cost to the federal government.

\$0

- b. *Coordination selection:* It is estimated that it will take an engineer and an attorney, both earning at \$66.14/hr. based on the salary for 2026 GS-13, Step 5, Washington-Baltimore-Arlington schedule, sixteen hours each to review each of three applications for

authorization.

3 (applications) x 2 federal staff x 16 hrs. x \$66.14/hr. = \$6,349.44

Total cost to the Federal Government is: \$6,349.44

15. Explain reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 12 and 13.

This is a new information collection. There are program changes of 27 to the number of respondents, 203 to the annual number of responses, 848 burden hours and \$300,000 to the annual cost.

16. For collection of information whose results are planned to be published for statistical use, outline plans for tabulation, statistical analysis, and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.

The Commission does not intend to publish the results of these collections of information.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

OMB approval of the expiration of the information collection will be displayed on OMB's website.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods.

This collection of information does not employ statistical methods.