

REQUEST FOR SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY
(Call Sign S2949)

Inmarsat plc (“Inmarsat”) hereby requests Special Temporary Authority (“STA”) for 60 days beginning on February 24, 2016 to provide service in the United States from the Inmarsat-3 F5 satellite (the “I3F5” satellite) at the 54° W.L. orbital location as a replacement for the Inmarsat-3 F4 satellite (the “I3F4” satellite) while its application to amend the ISAT List to reflect this change is being processed (*see* IBFS File No. SAT-PPL-20160111-00001).

The I3F4 satellite was added to the ISAT List at this location in 2009,¹ and has been operating there for over six years without incident. The I3F4 and I3F5 satellites were the last two of a series of third-generation Inmarsat satellites built by Lockheed Martin and Matra Marconi Space, and thus have virtually identical designs. Accordingly, the new satellite will operate with the same parameters, and provide the same types of “existing and evolved” Inmarsat services, as the one it is replacing.² I3F5 is in the process of relocating from the 24.6° E.L. orbital location, and is expected to arrive at its new location on or about February 12, 2016, with traffic transfer scheduled to begin on February 24, 2016.

The requested STA would serve the public interest by allowing Inmarsat to transition services to a new satellite, ensuring continuity of services to, from, and within the United States as Inmarsat reconfigures its in-orbit fleet. Inmarsat therefore respectfully requests that the Commission grant this STA request as expeditiously as possible.

¹ *See* Grant Stamp, IBFS File Nos. SAT-PPL-20090107-00003 and SAT-APL-20090115-00005 (Apr. 6, 2009).

² The I3F4 satellite will be moved slightly to a storage orbit at 45.3° pending deorbit later this year.