

Progress Report

COMSAT continues to use its wideband mobile experimental authorization (KA2ZHN) to determine the continued viability of wideband mobile satellite communications in the maritime environment.

Testing has focused on the development of inter-related technologies in the fields of emergency telemedicine and communications. COMSAT's experimental authorization has fostered the development of several new emerging technologies, including the development of gyroscope stabilization mechanisms and has contributed information which may be used to support the development of new designs in antenna manufacture. Tests and demonstrations are being conducted in support of the communications requirements of the U.S. Navy and other U.S. Government agencies. COMSAT is also providing wideband services to the Cruise Line industry. These services include voice, fax, data and Internet capabilities for crew and passengers.

During the period of experimental authorization, there have been no reports of harmful radio frequency interference into any lawfully operated radio station. In the extremely unlikely event that such interference should occur in the future, COMSAT will act promptly to ensure that such interference is immediately stopped.

In sum, COMSAT's experimental authorization has encouraged the testing and development of promising new services and has supported the communications requirements of the U.S. Government, in furtherance of the public interest. We respectfully request the Commission to renew this authority for an additional two-year period.