

EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT

Southwest Research Institute ("SwRI"), headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, is an independent, not-for-profit, applied engineering and research organization devoted to technology development and transfer. It conducts business with the industry and the government (*i.e.*, the United States and other friendly nations) on a worldwide basis. Approximately 50% of the SwRI's business is for the U.S Government.

SwRI has requested experimental special temporary authority ("STA") under ELS File No. 0323-EX-ST-2021, so that it may temporarily support third-party government contract testing related to small unmanned aerial systems ("UAS") and radar signature systems that must be relocated from other facilities due to the social distancing requirements and other complications caused by the COVID pandemic. Specifically, SwRI operates facilities at a remote, rural site near Sanderson, Texas, which has the capability to support the needed testing while meeting the safeguards designed to safeguard personnel.

As noted in its "Supporting Statement" accompanying its request for STA, SwRI currently conducts testing at its facilities located in San Antonio, Texas, under experimental radio licenses issued under call signs WD2XKF, WD2XLA, WD2XLB, WD2XLC, WF2XCH, WI2XEE and KG2XAJ, but does not currently hold similar authorizations to conduct test at its facilities near Sanderson, Texas.

Accordingly, SwRI respectfully requests expedited treatment of its request for special temporary authority so that it may commence the testing on or before **March 22, 2021**. An inability to commence operations on that date would adversely delay testing to support government related testing of small UAS and radar signature systems. Government and third-party representatives will be setting up the test equipment next week with the need to commence testing on March 22. The representatives participating in the testing cannot readily participate at another time.

SwRI recognizes that it has not provided the FCC with the customary advance notice of its need for an STA, and it regrets any inconvenience this may cause in the processing of this application. SwRI was only recently provided approval to support this testing and this filing was delayed due to the serious weather-related electric and water disruptions in Texas that closed its operations during the past few weeks.

PUBLIC INTEREST STATEMENT

SwRI submits that expedited processing of its request for an STA is in the public interest, convenience, and necessity, as it will permit SwRI to support government contract related testing of small UAS and radar signature systems that must be relocated from other facilities due to the social distancing requirements and other complications caused by the COVID pandemic.