

Boeing
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Tony,

You have requested that Boeing provide additional information regarding the geographic area in which it seeks to conduct the proposed experimental operations, and greater detail concerning the market studies that Boeing seeks to conduct. This email responds to your inquiry on these issues.

With respect to the geographic area of the proposed operations, in addition to operating in the continental United States, Alaska and Hawaii (which already has been authorized by the Commission), Boeing seeks to operate its ten experimental aircraft earth stations in international airspace throughout the service area of any authorized points of communication, which currently include "ALSAT Ku" and we are requesting to add at least one additional satellite (Eutelsat 2F4). As noted in the modification application, Boeing will operate its experimental stations in accordance with the coordination agreements of these authorized points of communication, and will operate on an unprotected non-interference basis. To the extent Boeing seeks to operate an experimental earth station within the airspace of a foreign country, it will obtain authority for such operations from the appropriate regulatory authorities within that country. Thus, Boeing requests FCC authority to operate its experimental earth stations on U.S. aircraft located in U.S. and international airspace.

With respect to the proposed market studies, Boeing seeks to conduct limited market studies using its authorized experimental stations (10) to demonstrate its innovative new service to commercial airlines, and to evaluate the potential market for its service on a small number of test aircraft. Specifically, Boeing currently anticipates that it will outfit one or two aircraft of each potential airline customer with an experimental earth station for demonstration and market study purposes. In order to maintain sufficient flexibility to conduct demonstrations and market tests for several potential customers during the same general time frame, Boeing requests authority to use all ten of its authorized experimental stations to conduct these limited market tests. During initial demonstrations to potential commercial airline customers, Boeing anticipates that its services typically would be accessed on a limited basis and evaluated by airline personnel, aircraft crew members and possibly passengers in order to evaluate the service offering and potential demand for two-way broadband communications services aboard aircraft. Because Boeing's demonstrations and market tests are necessarily constrained by the small number of experimental earth stations that it is authorized to operate (ten), Boeing will be conducting only very limited market testing. At this time, however, Boeing cannot provide more than this general description of its market test plans because the specific details of such plans will be contingent on agreements with potential airline customers.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding this response to your inquiry. In addition, Boeing would be pleased to provide the Commission with any additional information it may require to grant expeditiously Boeing's STA request and experimental modification application.