

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY

Pursuant to Section 25.210 of the Commission's rules, Spaceflight, Inc. ("Spaceflight") hereby respectfully requests a further extension of its Special Temporary Authority ("STA") to operate its Sherpa-LTE1 spacecraft. The spacecraft is currently operating under an STA that runs until February 24, 2022.¹ The period of requested extension is for one hundred eighty (180) days, running until August 23, 2022.

As Spaceflight previously advised the Commission, the developmental portion of its Sherpa-LTE1 mission ran into a variety of unanticipated technical constraints that substantially delayed the commissioning of necessary systems and limited the amount of data that could be transmitted from the spacecraft to ground stations, which in turn further delayed operations. These events raised concerns with Spaceflight that, given the remaining potential life of the vehicle and operational constraints, it would not be practical for it to try to lower the vehicle to the planned 350 km altitude.

During the previous two months that Spaceflight has been afforded to operate the spacecraft and downlink additional operational data, Spaceflight has taken the opportunity to review the downloaded data, and now believes that completing the demonstration mission as stated in the original STA request is feasible. Throughout this STA extension period, Spaceflight will continue to lower the Sherpa-LTE1 orbit while coordinating with NASA, 18 SPCS, and other organizations.

Accordingly, for good cause shown, Spaceflight respectfully asks that its extension request be granted.

¹ See Spaceflight, Inc., Application for STA, IBFS File No. SAT-STA-20211217-00197 (filed Dec. 17, 2021). See also *Satellite Policy Branch Information, Space Station Applications Accepted for Filing*, Public Notice, Report No. SAT-01598, rel. Dec 23, 2021. See further Spaceflight, Inc., Application for STA to Deploy and Operate Sherpa FX2 and Sherpa LTE-1, IBFS File No. SAT-STA-20210205-00017 (filed Feb 5, 2021).