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Ms. Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Reference: Ultra-Wideband; ET Docket 98-153

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am the Director, Information Processing Systems at L-3 Communications located in Camden, NJ. L-3 Communications produces both Government and commercial products.

As we investigated ultra-wideband technology and have heard of its many potential uses in both the Government and commercial markets, it has become evident that this capability may be used effectively in producing products to enhance the safety of individuals. One of these products could be an augmentation to GPS to provide a safer landing capability for aircraft. GPS alone does not provide sufficient accuracy, availability, integrity and continuity for many aviation operations. Two augmentations were made to the GPS service in order to meet more stringent requirements. These augmentations include the Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS) and the Local Area Augmentation System (LAAS). The WAAS is expected to satisfy the FAA requirements for primary means non-precision approaches and for Category I precision approaches after it is fully deployed. WAAS does not satisfy the FAA requirements for Category II and III precision approaches, nor will it satisfy the requirements for Category I approach outside the continental United States. The LAAS is intended to satisfy FAA precision approach requirements where the WAAS cannot. This includes Category I, II and III precision approach capabilities. The nature of the LAAS signal allows users to have highly accurate position information anywhere in the airport vicinity, enabling the potential use of LAAS as a surface navigation sensor and an input to surface surveillance/traffic management systems. Ultra-wideband technology may be a candidate to produce a LAAS for both military and commercial applications and enhance the safety of pilots and passengers on aircraft.

In our investigation of the UWB technology, it appears evident that, at the lower power levels, UWB emissions across the band are less than those of common household appliances such as hair dryers. Ultra-wideband is an emerging technology that offers many benefits. I urge the FCC to move forward with making a decision regarding this technology and to employ the technology subject to reasonable regulations designed to prevent harmful interference to critical public safety communications systems.

Sincerely,

James Hemschoot
Director, Information Processing Systems

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