NOAA’s
Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs

Tahara Dawkins
Director
Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs (CRSRA)
Facts & Figures
For Calendar Year 2017

➢ Licensing So Far
  • 35 Application Inquiries
  • 10 New Licenses Issued--Average of 96 days for Issuance
    • In CY 2016, Total of 14 New Licenses Issued at Average of 108 Days for Issuance
  • Total Actions: 38
  • Currently: 32 licensees (43 licenses)

➢ Ground Stations
  • 290 Licensed Sites
  • 2 Sites Pending Approval
  • 35 Additional Sites Anticipated by End of CY 2017
  • 3 New Countries Added to the Inspections List (Guam, India, Argentina)

➢ Satellites
  • ~215 satellites currently on orbit (Added 35 satellites since April)
2017 Licensing Activities

➢ 20 Open Actions
  • Includes: application reviews, new licenses, license amendments, waivers, and foreign agreements

➢ New Address:
  Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs, E/ACIO4
  1335 East-West Highway, Suite G-101
  Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

➢ Enhancements to Process
  • Memorandum of Understanding: An interagency memo was signed by the Secretaries of each agency, which will help shorten average time for issuing a license and clarifies escalation process
  • Changes in License Formats: With implementation of licensing conditions, CRSRA will be changing the license format for all licenses to make licenses shorter and more straight-forward
2017 Compliance Activities

➢ This year NOAA Compliance has so far:
  • Processed 14 Data Protection Plan Actions
  • Completed FY17 Quarter 3 Audits and Reviewed 34 Annual Audits
  • Completed 26 Inspections
  • Anticipate Completing 11 Additional Inspections by End of CY 2017

➢ Launches
  • Since April, Astro Digital, Planet Labs, Spire, Teledyne Brown and Tyvak have had successful launches
  • 11 Additional Launches by end of 2017

➢ Enhancements to Process
  • Audit Forms will be updated to correspond with license changes
  • Once forms are updated, all compliance forms will be posted on the website
Current Issues
Kyl-Bingaman Amendment

➢ Amendment
  • Statutory Language: PROHIBITION ON COLLECTION AND RELEASE OF DETAILED SATELLITE IMAGERY RELATING TO ISRAEL
    A department or agency of the United States may issue a license for the collection or dissemination by a non-Federal entity of satellite imagery with respect to Israel only if such imagery is no more detailed or precise than satellite imagery of Israel that is available from commercial sources.

➢ NOAA
  • Currently limits imagery over Israel to coarser than 2 meters GSD
  • Received evidence from licensees that imagery over Israel is currently commercially available from foreign commercial sources for better than 2 meters GSD
  • NOAA is undergoing review of this evidence
Current Issues
Foreign Engagements

➢ Operating Foreign Owned Satellites
  • NOAA Requirements: a remote sensing license and a foreign agreement

➢ Turn-Key Systems
  • NOAA Requirements: a remote sensing license and possibly a foreign agreement

➢ Dual Regulation
  • Bi-Lateral Requirements: a NOAA license does not waive legal requirements in other nations

➢ Foreign Ground Stations
  • Notify NOAA of any and all ground stations from which you downlink imagery
  • Specify if foreign partners have access to downlinked data at these ground stations--a foreign agreement may be needed
Questions?