

§ 22.873 Construction period for commercial aviation air-ground systems.

Construction of a new commercial aviation air-ground system is considered to be completed for the purpose of this section and § 22.142 when the number of ground stations specified in this section are constructed and operational.

(a) *Stage I.* At least 25 ground stations must be constructed and operational within 3 years. Licensees must notify the Commission by using FCC Form 601 as soon as this requirement is met.

(b) *Stage II.* At least 50 ground stations must be constructed and operational within 5 years. Nationwide service to subscribers must commence within 5 years. Licensees must notify the Commission by using FCC Form 601 as soon as this requirement is met.

[59 FR 59507, Nov. 17, 1994, as amended at 63 FR 68950, Dec. 14, 1998]

§ 22.875 Commercial aviation air-ground system application requirements.

Existing and prospective common carriers may file applications for authority to construct and operate a new nationwide air-ground system on the channels listed in § 22.857 only during window filing periods that may be announced by the FCC in Public Notices. In addition to the requirements elsewhere in this part, such applications must contain the following exhibits:

(a) *Written agreement.* A signed agreement between the applicant and at least one airline or airline organization, authorizing the applicant to provide air-ground service on its aircraft.

(b) *Financial qualifications.* At the time of filing its application an applicant must demonstrate that it has either a firm financial commitment or available financial resources necessary to construct 50 ground stations and operate for one year after initiation of nationwide air-ground service its proposed air-ground system.

(1) The demonstration of commitment must include and be sufficient to cover the realistic and prudent estimated costs of construction of 50 ground stations, operation and other initial expenses for one year after initi-

ation of nationwide air-ground service. The estimated costs, operation costs and other initial expenses must be itemized. The estimated costs must include the anticipated costs of construction of each ground station.

(2) The firm financial commitment required above must be obtained from a state or federally chartered bank or savings and loan association, or the financial affiliate or subsidiary of an equipment supplier, and must contain a statement that the lender:

(i) Has examined the financial condition of the applicant including audited financial statements, and has determined that the applicant is credit worthy;

(ii) That the lender is committed to providing a sum certain to the particular applicant;

(iii) That the lender's willingness to enter into the commitment is based solely on its relationship with the applicant; and

(iv) That the commitment is not in any way guaranteed by any entity other than the applicant.

(3) Applicants intending to rely on personal or internal resources must submit:

(i) Audited financial statements certified within one year of the date of the application, indicating the availability of sufficient net liquid assets to construct and operate the proposed air-ground system for one year.

(A) The auditors must be certified public accountants.

(B) Net liquid assets is considered to be the excess of current assets (readily converted to cash) over current liabilities. In order to demonstrate ready convertibility into cash, the identity, liquidity and value of listed assets must be demonstrated. Non-liquid assets can be relied on if the marketability of those assets is documented.

(ii) An audited balance sheet, current within 60 days of filing, which clearly shows the continued availability of sufficient net liquid assets to construct and operate the proposed air-ground system for one year after nationwide service begins.

(c) *Service Plan.* A service plan containing: