



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

June 11, 2018

Board of Trustees, Michigan State University
Susan Elkins
Director of Broadcasting WKAR-AM/FM/TV
404 Wilson Road
Room 212
East Lansing, MI 48824

WKAR-TV, East Lansing, MI
Facility ID No. 6104
File No. 0000053377

Dear Licensee:

This letter is in reference to the above captioned application for experimental authority filed by Board of Trustees, Michigan State University (MSU), licensee of full power television station WKAR-TV East Lansing, Michigan (WKAR-TV or Station). For the reasons below, we grant MSU's request for experimental authority pursuant to Section 5.205 of the Commission's experimental licensing rules.¹

MSU requests experimental authority to establish a NextGen Media Innovation Lab, which will be run by WKAR-TV, in cooperation with the College of Communication Arts and Sciences at Michigan State University. The lab will be used to test components, modes and techniques that are part of the ATSC 3.0 standard in order to gain a better understanding of how ATSC 3.0 compares to the current ATSC 1.0 standard and how the ATSC 3.0 standard can be used to provide services in such areas as education, health, farming, emergency preparedness, and connected vehicles. MSU seeks authority to operate on channel 35 until April 13, 2019.² The experimental authorization will also allow other noncommercial educational television stations that are part of the Public Media Venture Group,³ as well as public media program producers and other Public Broadcasting Service member stations, to test ATSC 3.0 applications for noncommercial television stations.

MSU provides an engineering analysis demonstrating that until April 19, 2019, operation on channel 35 is not predicted to cause more than 0.5% new interference to any other licensed facilities, or more than 2% new interference to any licensed low power television facilities. After a thorough review of the technical specifications, we are persuaded that no interference to other licensed television stations is likely to occur from the proposed operation. We therefore conclude that the public interest would be served by grant of MSU's request for an initial period of six-months since the information obtained from the experiment may be valuable to broadcasters, notably noncommercial broadcasters, understanding of how the ATSC 3.0 standard can be used for new and innovative broadcast services (video and non-video).

¹ 47 CFR § 5.205.

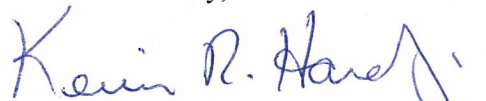
² April 13, 2019 is the testing period start date for Phase 3 of the post-incentive auction transition, at which time WAQP, Saginaw, MI is authorized to commence operations on its assigned post-auction channel, channel 36, and continued operation on channel 35 by MSU would result in impermissible interference to WAQP's operations. MSU incorrectly states in its application that the testing period start date for Phase 3 is April 19, 2019.

³ PMVG is a coalition of 24 public media television licensees that are working together and investing collaboratively in Next Generation TV.

Accordingly, the experimental authority requested by MSU for an experimental broadcast station on channel 35 **IS GRANTED** for a period of six months from the date of this letter, subject to the provisions of Part 5, Subpart D, any commitments made by MSU in the application, and the following conditions.

1. MSU's operation under this experimental authorization may not in any way impact operations of WKAR-TV or the ability of existing viewers to obtain WKAR-TV's ATSC 1.0 over-the-air programming.
2. As required by 47 CFR § 5.207, a report must be filed with any application for renewal of this authorization. The report must contain the required information under the rule as well as the reason that continued experimentation is needed. There is no expectation of renewal. To the extent renewal is not sought, a report containing the information required by 47 CFR § 5.207 must be submitted to the Video Division within thirty days of expiration of the experimental authority.
3. Should any issues or conditions arise during the authorization period that prevent or inhibit the licensee from conducting its experimentation, MSU shall inform the Video Division at the time they occur. If experimentation is to be discontinued prior to the authorization's expiration date, MSU must promptly notify the Video Division of the date it will be terminating its experimentation.
4. Grant of the instant this authorization does not represent that WKAR-TV would be granted a license to transmit a licensed ATSC 3.0 signal pursuant to the rules adopted in the *ATSC 3.0 Report and Order* (FCC 17-158). To the extent MSU seeks such authority in the future, WKAR-TV's eligibility for an ATSC 3.0 license will be evaluated at the time of application.
5. Any broadcaster equipment or end-user devices must receive (as applicable) the necessary Commission equipment authorizations prior to use.
6. With ample time before commencing operation, MSU must make a good faith effort to identify and notify health care facilities (e.g., hospitals, nursing homes, *see* 47 CFR 15.242(a)(1)), within the experimental station's service area that may potentially be affected by its operation.
7. This experimental authorization is secondary and may be immediately modified or terminated if the operation causes interference to any other broadcast facility or MSU fails to comply with any conditions of grant. The Video Division may also modify the terms of or terminate this authorization for any other reason upon written notice.

Sincerely,



Kevin R. Harding
Associate Chief, Video Division
Media Bureau

Cc:
Jonathan Cohen, Esq.