



February 10, 2023

FCC Approves Kuiper Systems/Amazon Satellite Constellation Orbital Debris Mitigation Plan

On February 8, the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"), the U.S. satellite regulator, released an Order and Authorization approving Amazon affiliate Kuiper Systems LLC's orbital debris mitigation plan, clearing the way for deployment of Kuiper's Ka-band NGSO (Non-Geostationary Orbit) LEO (Low Earth Orbit) broadband 3,236 satellite constellation, conditionally licensed for a 15-year term in 2020. A copy of the FCC Order (DA 23-114) can be found [Here](#).

In the Order, the FCC confirmed Kuiper's deadlines of July 30, 2026 to launch 50% of the constellation and July 20, 2029 to launch the remaining 50%. Kuiper must also file semi-annual reports on satellite conjunction events, actions taken in response, satellite reentry events, satellite collision avoidance and debris mitigation failures.

We reported last year on the FCC's partial deferral of SpaceX Starlink's constellation deployment authority pending addressing concerns about orbital debris remediation and space safety for other LEO satellite constellations (see, "FCC Partially Grants SpaceX Starlink Gen 2 Application," December 5, 2022); we previously reported on the FCC's adoption of a Report and Order ("R&O") that would require LEO operators to de-orbit their satellites as soon as practicable and no more than 5 years after mission-end, down from the previously non-mandatory guideline of 25 years ("FCC Adopts Mandatory 5 Year Satellite De-Orbiting Rules," September 30, 2022) (both available at [Kurtin PLLC Satellites & Space](#)). The R&O noted that there are currently over 4,800 orbiting satellites, the vast majority orbiting at under 2,000 km (1,200 miles) altitude, the upper limit of LEO (traditional geosynchronous orbits, including geostationary "GEO" orbits - geosynchronous at 0 degrees inclination to the equator and 0 eccentricity, or circular rather than elliptical - are at 35,786 km,

or 22,236 miles). Many of the LEO satellites were launched within the last two years and may have shorter service lives than geosynchronous satellites, due to greater atmospheric drag than orbits at higher altitudes. The FCC is apparently serious about holding LEO operators to real debris mitigation and de-orbiting protocols and commitments.

Owen D. Kurtin

For additional information or for information on our professional services, please visit our website at the button link below and contact us at +1.212.554.3373 or info@kurtinlaw.com.

Kurtin PLLC, a New York City-based law firm, focuses on corporate, commercial and regulatory representation in the [Biotechnology & Life Sciences](#), [Communications & Media](#), [Information Technologies](#), [Blockchain & Internet](#), [Satellites & Space](#) and [Venture Capital & Private Equity](#) sectors. Since our founding in 2008, we have represented clients in over forty countries on six continents and across the United States on transactional and dispute resolution matters. Among our key values, none rank higher than creative and individualized solutions to business issues, absolute client discretion and unsurpassed responsiveness.

[Kurtin PLLC Website](#)

The materials contained in this message and website pages, whitepapers, advisories and other items directly linked to it have been prepared for general informational purposes only and should not be construed or relied upon as legal advice or a legal opinion on any specific facts and circumstances. The publication and dissemination, including on-line, of these materials and receipt, review, response to or other use of them does not create or constitute an attorney-client relationship.

To ensure compliance with requirements imposed by the Internal Revenue Service, we inform you that any tax advice contained in this communication (including any attachments) was not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of (i) avoiding tax-related penalties under the Internal Revenue Code or (ii) promoting, marketing or recommending to another party any tax-related matter(s) addressed herein.

These materials may contain attorney advertising. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

Copyright © Kurtin PLLC 2023. All Rights Reserved.

[Kurtin PLLC | Website](#)



Kurtin PLLC | One Rockefeller Plaza, Floor 11, New York, NY 10020

[Unsubscribe okurtin@kurtinlaw.com](mailto:okurtin@kurtinlaw.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by okurtin@kurtinlaw.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!