

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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LES-8 and LES-9 provide diverse capabilities that can support scientific as well as engineering and military programs. The attached letter from Michael Balister of the National Radio-Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) testifies to the versatility of these satellites.

This use of LES-8 or LES-9 is identical (insofar as the satellites are concerned) with support which has been provided to the Five-College Radio-Astronomy Observatory (FCRAO) near Amherst, Massachusetts, during the past 2 years. FCRAO has found this support helpful. When higher-priority users preempted FCRAO's use of LES-8, new support periods were scheduled and fulfilled.

I recommend that SCD/CSS approve the addition of NRAO to the community of LES-8/9 users. LESOC and NRAO can handle the technical interface details directly, once NRAO receives authorization for satellite time from the Brandywine PCC.

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