



February 7, 2023

Mr. Jeffrey Planty
Vice President, Technical Operations Services
FAA Headquarters
800 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Subject: FAA System Design Approval of Saab Remote Tower System

Dear Mr. Planty,

Saab, Inc. has been working on Remote Tower with the FAA, Leesburg Airport and the State of Virginia for eight years. Over the last two years, we have been engaged with the FAA Technical Operations Team to achieve System Design Approval (SDA) for the Saab Remote Tower system. We concluded detailed reviews of three key planning documents that were first submitted in early 2022: Systems Engineering Management Plan, System Safety Plan, and Software Approval Plan. We appreciate the FAA support and the effort of your team to help us learn the approval process for non-Federal systems.

Given our better understanding of the newly-defined SDA process as captured in the February 2022 Advisory Circular, Saab will no longer pursue approval of the system currently baselined and operating at Leesburg. Instead, we will focus our efforts on assessing the impact of the SDA requirements on our future system offering, which will form the basis for a possible technical refresh of the Leesburg system baseline.

We expect this assessment to take several months, after which time we understand that we will need to resubmit our SDA application to the FAA, along with the appropriate intake documents, to reflect our updated system baseline. Once this package is approved, we further understand that we will need to coordinate with the FAA to install a system at the WJH Technical Center in support of the System Operational Evaluation, as defined in the FAA Advisory Circular for non-Federal remote tower systems.

For the removal of doubt, we confirm that we will continue to meet our contractual obligation to support the current system at Leesburg. We also ask that the FAA consider any and all means to extend the operational viability decision for the current system, including potentially providing a limited SDA, which would allow the current ATC services at Leesburg to continue.

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If you have any concerns, questions, or feedback, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "mike.gerry".

Michael Gerry
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Cc: Mr. Brian Throop, FAA Vice President, Air Traffic Services (AJT)
Mr. Paul Fontaine, FAA Assistant Administrator for NextGen (A), ANG-1
Mr. Scott Coffman, Leesburg Airport Manager
Mr. Greg Campbell, Director, Virginia Department of Aviation

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