

A monthly round-up of space industry developments for the information of our clients and friends.

Space Business Review

ViaSat & Eutelsat Ka-band Collaboration

ViaSat, Inc. and **Eutelsat Communications** announced on January 7 that they have placed separate orders for high capacity Ka-band satellites **ViaSat-1** and **KA-SAT**, respectively, that will take advantage of ViaSat's Ka-band **SurfBeam DOCSIS®** broadband network infrastructure. ViaSat-1, ordered from **Space Systems/Loral (SS/L)**, is expected to be launched in 2011 and will be positioned at the 115°WL orbital location to provide consumer and enterprise broadband services to customers in North America with a design throughput of over 100 gigabits per second. **Loral Space & Communications (Loral)**, the parent company of SS/L, is financing the Canadian portion of ViaSat-1's coverage, which is expected to be used by Loral affiliate **Telesat Canada**. KA-SAT, ordered by Eutelsat from **EADS Astrium** and expected to be delivered in 2010, will be positioned at the 13°EL orbital location and configured with over 80 spot beams to provide consumer broadband services in Europe and the Mediterranean basin with a design throughput of over 70 gigabits per second.

Other January Satellite Orders

On January 14, **Boeing Satellite Systems, Inc.** announced a contract to build the **ProtoStar II** communications satellite for **ProtoStar Ltd.** Scheduled for launch in 2009, the model **601 HP** spacecraft will be equipped with 22 Ku-band and 10 S-band high-power transponders primarily designed to deliver direct-to-home satellite television programming and broadband Internet services to customers in India, Indonesia, Taiwan, the Philippines and Southeast Asia. Also in January, the **Republic of Kazakhstan** announced the order of a second **KazSat** communications satellite from a team consisting of Russia's **Khrunichev State Research and Production Space Center** and **Thales Alenia Space**, the same team that built the **KazSat-1** satellite launched in June 2006. Scheduled for launch directly into the geostationary orbit by a Russian **Proton** rocket in late 2009, **KazSat-2** will be equipped with 16 Ku-band transponders designed to provide television broadcast and communications services across Kazakhstan, Central Asia and central regions of Russia. The satellite will be operated under contract by the **Russian Satellite Communications Company**.

January Launch Services

On January 15, **Sea Launch Company, LLC** successfully launched the **Thuraya-3** mobile communications satellite for the United Arab Emirates-based operator **Thuraya Satellite Telecommunications Company**. The launch was performed from the Sea Launch **Odyssey** platform positioned in the equatorial Pacific Ocean on a **Zenit 3SL** rocket. Built by **Boeing Satellite Systems, Inc.** on its **BSS-GEM (Geomobile)** platform, Thuraya-3 weighed approximately 5,180 kg at launch and will be positioned at the 98.5°EL orbital location to provide a range of mobile voice and data services in the Asia-Pacific region. Thuraya-3 is expected to begin commercial operations within two months and enable Thuraya to proceed with its plans to expand land mobile services in China and provide maritime services throughout East Asia. On January 28, the **Express-AM33** communications satellite was successfully launched from the **Baikonur Cosmodrome** in Kazakhstan on a Russian **Proton-M** rocket. Manufactured for the **Russian Satellite Communications Company** by a joint team consisting of **NPO-PM** and **Thales Alenia Space**, the spacecraft weighed approximately 2,600 kg at launch. Express-AM33 is equipped with 10 C-band, 16 Ku-band and an L-band transponder to provide digital television broadcast, Internet connectivity, data transmission, video conferencing, VSAT and mobile governmental communications services from the 96.5°EL orbital position to customers in Russia and the Asia-Pacific region. With a design life of approximately 12 years, Express-AM33 is expected to begin commercial operations by early March.

Arianespace to Launch YahSat 1A

On January 15, **Arianespace** and **Al Yah Satellite Communications Company PrJsc** of the United Arab Emirates concluded an agreement for launch of the **Yahsat 1A** communications satellite on an **Ariane 5 ECA** vehicle from the **European Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana** in 2010. YahSat 1A is being built by **Astrium** and **Thales Alenia Space** and will be positioned at the 52.5°EL orbital location to provide innovative communications solutions to governmental and commercial customers in the Middle East, Africa, Europe and Southwest Asia, including Internet connectivity, data networks and high-definition television transmission services.

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