

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

Khronichev and Astrium to Build Express AM4 Russian Satellite Communications Co.

(RSCC) announced on March 14 that it has selected a team consisting of **Khronichev Space Center** and **Astrium**, a wholly owned subsidiary of **EADS**, to build the **Express AM4** communications satellite. Scheduled for launch on a **Proton** rocket in late 2010, the **Eurostar E3000** spacecraft will be equipped with 63 transponders operating in L, C, Ku and Ka - bands to provide high performance coverage over the Russian Federation and the CIS countries from the 80°EL orbital location. Express AM4 is by far the largest Express satellite ever ordered and is capable of generating 14 kW of payload power during its planned 15-year service life.

March Launches and Launch Orders

On March 19, **Sea Launch Company** successfully launched the **DirecTV 11** satellite for **DirecTV Inc.** from Sea Launch's self-propelled **Odyssey** platform positioned at the equatorial Pacific Ocean on a **Zenit-3SL** vehicle with a **Block DM-SL** upper stage. Built by **Boeing Satellite Systems International** based on its **702** model, DirecTV 11 is one of the largest and most powerful Ka-band satellites built to date weighing 5,923 kg at launch and capable of generating 14 kW of payload power. The satellite will be positioned at the 99.2°WL orbital position and is expected to add 50 nationwide HD television channels and double to 150 the number of local market HD channels (via the spacecraft's spot beams) in DirecTV's current service offering. Sea Launch also announced that it has signed an agreement with **Intelsat** to launch two communications satellites, **Intelsat-15** (IS-15) and **Intelsat-16** (IS-16). Both satellites are being built by **Orbital Sciences Corporation** based on its **STAR™** spacecraft bus and are expected to be launched in 2009 from the **Baikonur Space Center** in Kazakhstan using a **Land Launch Zenit-3SLB** vehicle. IS-15 will be equipped with 22 Ku-band transponders, will generate 4.6 kW of payload power and is expected to replace Intelsat 709 at the 85°EL orbital position to provide video and data services to customers in the Middle East, Indian Ocean Region and Russia. IS-16's payload of 24 Ku-band transponders will provide DTH capacity for DirecTV subsidiaries and in-orbit backup and additional transponder capacity for Brazil (**Sky Brasil**) and Mexico from either the 43.1°WL or 58°WL orbital locations.

DOJ Approves Sirius-XM Merger

On March 24, the **U.S. Department of Justice Antitrust Division** issued a statement announcing the conclusion of its investigation of the proposed merger of **XM Satellite Radio Holdings Inc.** with **Sirius Satellite Radio Inc.** The statement cited among the reasons for reaching this conclusion: (i) a lack of significant competition between XM and Sirius in important areas; (ii) the existence of competitive alternative services available to consumers, such as traditional AM/FM radio, HD radio, MP3 players and audio offerings delivered through wireless phones; (iii) the likely evolution of technology rendering alternative services increasingly attractive in the future; and (iv) efficiencies expected to flow from the merger, such as significant variable and fixed cost savings that could benefit consumers. The planned merger remains subject to approval by the **U.S. Federal Communications Commission**.

Loral – Northrop Grumman Collaboration

Northrop Grumman Corporation and **Space Systems/Loral (SS/L)**, a subsidiary of **Loral Space & Communications**, announced that they are pursuing joint initiatives aimed at broadening each company's opportunities to provide the U.S. government with cost competitive satellites. The collaboration also will allow SS/L to expand its manufacturing capacity as needed through access to integration and test facilities and services at Northrop Grumman facilities in Redondo Beach, California. The joint project will enable Northrop Grumman's Space Technology sector to use the **SS/L 1300** satellite platform and other SS/L components for future space system procurements. The collaboration envisions a joint pursuit of hosted payload opportunities for government applications, with payloads designed and built by Northrop Grumman's Space Technology sector piggybacked on commercial satellites manufactured by SS/L.

In Memoriam – Sir Arthur C. Clarke

Milbank joins the worldwide space community in mourning the loss of Sir Arthur C. Clarke and celebrating his life and contributions. Sir Arthur's detailed descriptions of satellite communications systems, the geostationary orbit, space shuttles and super computers inspired generations of readers to reach for the stars.

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