



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

May Satellite Launches

On May 4, **Arianespace** successfully placed two communications satellites into geostationary orbit using an **Ariane 5 ECA** launch vehicle: the **Astra-1L** spacecraft for **SES Astra**, a subsidiary of **SES Global**, and **Galaxy 17** for **Intelsat**. **Astra-1L**, manufactured by **Lockheed Martin Commercial Space Systems**, is based on the Lockheed **A2100** series platform and equipped with 29 Ku- and 2 Ka-band transponders. The spacecraft will provide direct-to-home broadcast and interactive communications services across Europe from the 19.2°EL orbital slot. **Galaxy 17**, built by **Thales Alenia Space** and based on its **Spacebus 3000 B3** platform with 24 C- and 24 Ku-band transponders, will be initially deployed at the 74°WL orbital position to provide video and data transmission services covering Latin America and the Caribbean, and will subsequently be relocated to 91°WL orbital position. On May 14, **NIGCOMSAT-1**, a Nigerian geostationary satellite, was launched by a **Long March 3-B** vehicle. **NIGCOMSAT-1** was designed and manufactured for the **National Space Research Development Agency of Nigeria** by the **China Academy of Space Technology** and is based on its **DFH-4** satellite platform equipped with 4 C-band, 14 Ku-band, 8 Ka-band and 2 L-band transponders. The spacecraft will operate at the 42°EL orbital position and will provide telecommunications, broadband media, navigation and global positioning, and data exchange services throughout the African continent.

Inmarsat Selected for Alphabus Project

The **European Space Agency** (ESA) has tentatively selected **Inmarsat** as its commercial partner for the **Alphabus** satellite development project. The technology demonstrator spacecraft platform is being developed by **EADS Astrium** and **Thales Alenia Space** with a €220 million contribution by ESA and **CNES**, the French space agency, to provide European manufacturers a commercial product for very large satellites up to 7,000 kilograms (launch mass) and 18 kilowatts of on-board power at the end of its 15-year design life. Scheduled for launch in 2012 to the 25°EL orbital position, the spacecraft will include 3 ESA technology payloads and Inmarsat's contemplated payload providing seven MHz of L-band uplink and downlink capacity to expand its mobile broadband services within Europe, Africa and the Middle East. ESA negotiations with Inmarsat are underway to negotiate a firm contract, expected to be concluded by late July.

May Satellite and Launch Services Orders

Orbital Sciences Corporation announced on May 8 that it has been awarded a contract by **SES Americom** a subsidiary of **SES Global**, to manufacture **AMC-5R**, a replacement satellite, along with a ground spare and an option to manufacture up to three more spacecraft. **AMC-5R** and the ground spare will be based on Orbital's **Star-2™** platform and are scheduled to be completed in mid- and late 2009, respectively. Each satellite will be equipped with 24 C-band and 24 Ku-band transponders. On May 10, **Space Systems/Loral** (SS/L) announced a contract award from **SES NEW SKIES**, also a subsidiary of **SES Global**, to manufacture **NSS-12**. The spacecraft will be based on SS/L's model **1300** platform and equipped with 40 C-band and 48 Ku-band active high-power transponders. With a design life of over 15 years. The spacecraft is scheduled to be completed in 2009 and will be positioned at the 57°EL orbital position over the Indian Ocean region and will provide communications services for Africa, the Middle East, India and other parts of Asia. **Mobile Satellite Ventures** announced on May 15 that it has signed two separate launch contracts, one with **International Launch Services** for the 2009 launch of its first satellite on a **Proton** launch vehicle and another with **Sea Launch** for a 2010 launch of its second satellite on a **Zenit-3SL** launch vehicle. Both satellites are based on the high-power **Boeing GEO-mobile** platform and will be used to provide high-speed broadband communications services throughout the North American continent. **EADS Astrium** and **Thales Alenia Space** announced on May 21 that they had been jointly selected to manufacture a \$1.36 billion civil-military satellite telecommunications system for **Al Yah Satellite Communications**, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi government's strategic investment vehicle **Mubadala Development Company**. The satellite system will provide government and commercial communication services such as broadcasting and Internet trunking to the Middle East, Africa, Europe and Southeast Asia. **ICO Global Communications** announced on May 24 that it had signed a launch services and dual-launch study agreement with **International Launch Services (ILS)**. The agreement includes up to five launches to be performed between 2009 and 2011. In addition, ILS will design and propose a dual-launch capability for ICO's medium earth orbit satellites.

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