

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

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SES & EchoStar QuetzSat-1 Deal

On November 26, **SES S.A.** announced a multi-year agreement to provide capacity to **EchoStar Corporation** on the planned **QuetzSat-1** satellite. Industry reports indicate that QuetzSat-1 will be used respectively by **Dish Mexico** (a joint venture between EchoStar and Mexican pay-TV service operator **MVS Comunicaciones S.A. de C.V.**) and **DISH Network Corporation**, to provide direct-to-home services in Mexico and the U.S. SES will soon begin the procurement process for QuetzSat-1, a Ku-band broadcast spacecraft to be operated at the 77°WL orbital location pursuant to a license granted by the Mexican Government to **QuetzSat S. de R.L. de C.V.**, a Mexican-controlled partnership in which SES holds an indirect 49% stake.

FSS Market Demonstrates Resilience

Despite the global economic downturn, the satellite services market is demonstrating significant resilience and growth worldwide. **Inmarsat Holdings Limited** reported on November 10 third quarter record revenues of \$162.5m, up 16.4% from the same period last year and a 15.4% growth in EBITDA to \$112.3m. On November 12, **Intelsat, Ltd.** reported third quarter revenues of \$598.5m, up 10% from the same period last year and bringing its revenue for the first nine months of 2008 to \$1.75b, up 9% from the 2007 figure. During the same period, Intelsat has increased its adjusted EBITDA by 11% and grown its contract backlog to \$8.7b. Similarly, **SES** reported in November that it expects revenues to grow by an average of 5% per year through 2011, with gross profit margins for its core satellite capacity sales business remaining at around 82% during that period.

Successful Test of SpaceX's Falcon 9

On November 21, **Space Exploration Technologies Corporation** (SpaceX) successfully conducted a full mission-length static test firing of its planned **Falcon 9** launch vehicle core stage at its **McGregor Test Facility** in Texas. All nine engines of the rocket were active for nearly three minutes and generated 855,000 pounds of force at sea level. SpaceX is developing the heavy-lift Falcon 9 vehicle with the aid of \$278m from the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Commercial Orbital Transportation Services** program. SpaceX has scheduled the first Falcon 9 demonstration mission for 2009.

ILS Launches ASTRA 1M

On November 6, **International Launch Services** successfully launched the **ASTRA 1M** satellite for **SES ASTRA** from the **Baikonur Cosmodrome** in Kazakhstan on a **Proton Breeze M** launcher. ASTRA 1M was built by **EADS Astrium** based on its **Eurostar E3000** bus design and weighed 5,320 kg at launch. With a design life of 15 years, the spacecraft is equipped with 36 Ku-band transponders and will be positioned at the 19.2°EL orbital location to provide pan-European direct-to-home services, including high-definition television.

November Launch Services Orders

ViaSat, Inc. announced on November 17 that it has selected **Arianespace** to launch its **ViaSat-1** satellite. The launch will be performed by an **Ariane 5 ECA** vehicle from Kourou, French Guiana in early 2011. The result of a collaboration between **ViaSat, Loral Space & Communications, Ltd.**, **Telesat Holdings** and **Eutelsat S.A.**, ViaSat-1 is being built by **Space Systems/Loral** using its proven **1300** platform and high-capacity Ka-band spot beam technology. With a launch mass of over 6,000 kg and an expected throughput in excess of 100 Gbps, ViaSat-1 will provide 10 times the broadband capacity of current Ka-band satellites. The spacecraft will be located at the 115°WL orbital location to provide services to users in the continental United States, Canada, Alaska and Hawaii. **Sea Launch Company, LLC** announced on November 20 that it has signed a multiple launch services contract with **Intelsat, Ltd.** for five satellites to be launched from the **Odyssey Launch Platform** positioned in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. The five firm launches are scheduled to be performed beginning in late 2010 through 2012.

FCC Grants TerreStar Milestone Extension

TerreStar Corporation announced on November 13 that the **Federal Communications Commission** granted a request by **TerreStar Networks Inc.** for an extension of its satellite launch milestone from September 30, 2008 to June 30, 2009, and its operational commencement milestone from November 30, 2008 to August 30, 2009. The extension was requested due to previously disclosed issues experienced during the construction by **Space Systems/Loral** of the **TerreStar-1** S-band satellite.

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