

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

DIRECTV and Liberty Entertainment Merge

On May 4, the **DIRECTV Group, Inc.** and **Liberty Media Corporation** announced definitive agreements for the combination of DIRECTV Group with **Liberty Entertainment, Inc.** (LEI), a company to be spun-off from Liberty Media. LEI will be comprised of 54% of the common stock of DIRECTV Group, three regional sports networks, a 65% stake in both **Game Show Network** and **FUN Technologies**, approximately \$30m in cash and \$2b in debt. DIRECTV Group agreed to provide Liberty up to \$650m to service existing LEI debt pursuant to a term loan facility. LEI and DIRECTV Group will merge under the newly created parent company **DIRECTV** in the fourth quarter of 2009.

Successful Launch of IndoStar II/ProtoStar II International Launch Services (ILS)

announced on May 16 the successful launch of the **Indostar II/ProtoStar II** satellite from the **Baikonur Cosmodrome** in Kazakhstan on a **Proton Breeze M** launcher. The satellite, built for **ProtoStar II Ltd.** by **Boeing Satellite Systems** based on its **601 HP** platform, is equipped with 22 active Ku-band transponders and 10 active S-band transponders. From its 107.7°EL orbital location, the satellite will provide broadcast, broadband and communications services throughout the Asia-Pacific region, including follow-on and expansion capacity for **PT MNC Skyvision/Indovision's** direct-to-home service in Indonesia.

May Launch Orders

On May 20, **Arianespace S.A.** announced that it was selected by **Inmarsat** to launch its **Alphasat I-XL** communications satellite in 2012 from Kourou, French Guiana, using an **Ariane 5 ECA** launcher. Alphasat I-XL is being built by **EADS Astrium** using its **Alphabus** platform as part of a joint developmental initiative by the **European Space Agency** and **CNES**, the French space agency. The satellite will be positioned at the 25°EL orbital location to provide advanced mobile voice and data communications services across Europe, Africa, the Middle East and parts of Asia. On May 22, **International Launch Services** announced that it will launch the **SkyTerra 2** satellite on a **Proton** launcher in late 2010. The satellite is being manufactured for **SkyTerra Communications** by **Boeing Satellite Systems** based on its **702** platform.

May Satellite Orders

On May 5, **Space Systems/Loral** (SS/L) announced that it has been selected to build the **AsiaSat 5C** satellite for **Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Ltd.** (AsiaSat) as a back-up for **AsiaSat 5**, also under construction by SS/L. Based on the SS/L **1300** platform, the satellite will be equipped with 26 C-band and 14 Ku-band transponders to provide broadcast, voice, VSAT and broadband multimedia services across the Asia Pacific region from the 100.5°EL orbital location. On May 14, **Eutelsat Communications** announced the selection of **EADS Astrium** to build its **ATLANTIC BIRD™ 7** communications satellite, based on the **Eurostar E3000** platform. The satellite will be equipped with up to 44 Ku-band transponders providing direct-to-home services to customers in the Middle East and North Africa and up to 12 Ku-band transponders designed for broadcast and broadband services with coverage of North-West Africa, across the Maghreb countries and extending to the Gulf of Guinea. As part of Eutelsat's collaboration with Egyptian operator **Nilesat**, **ATLANTIC BIRD™ 7** will be co-located with the **Nilesat 101** and **102** satellites at the 7°WL orbital position. **Russian Satellite Communications Company** (RSCC) on May 21 announced the tentative selection (subject to signature of final contracts) of **ISS Reshetnev** and **Thales Alenia Space** to build the **Express-AM5** and **Express-AM6** satellites under a contract valued at approximately \$370m. The procurement involves the development of a new satellite platform tailored for the Russian market, as well as certain satellite payload technology transfer. Express-AM5 will be equipped with 36 Ku-band, 30 C-band, 14 Ka-band and three L-band transponders and operate at the 140°EL orbital position while Express-AM6 will have a similar payload (20 Ka-band and 14 C-band transponders, instead of 14 and 30, respectively) and will operate at the 53°EL orbital position.

Results of the S-Band Auction in Europe

On May 14 the **European Commission** published its selection decision for the S-band process in Europe. The Commission has selected two operators, **Solaris Mobile Limited** and **Inmarsat Ventures Limited**, each of which receive 2 x 15 MHz of S-band spectrum, to provide mobile satellite services across Europe.