

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

### Thales Alenia Space to Build Nilesat 201

**Nilesat Co.** of Egypt announced on May 14 that it has selected **Thales Alenia Space** to build the **Nilesat 201** spacecraft. Based on Thales **Spacebus-4000B2** platform, the spacecraft will be equipped with 28 Ku-band transponders, 4 Ka-band transponders and is designed to provide direct-to-home television, radio and data-transmission services in the Middle East and North America from the 7°WL orbital location. Scheduled for launch on an **Ariane 5 ECA** vehicle in late 2010, Nilesat 201 is expected to weigh 3,200 kg at launch and will generate 5.7 kilowatts of payload power during its 15-year design life.

### Thales and Orbital Share Koreasat 6 Contract

On May 15, **Thales Alenia Space** and **Orbital Sciences Corporation** announced their collaboration in building the **Koreasat 6** spacecraft for **KT Corp.** of the Republic of Korea. Thales Alenia will act as the prime contractor and will have the overall responsibility for design, manufacturing and test of the satellite and ground segment, as well as Launch and Early Operations Phase (LEOP), In-Orbit Test (IOT) support and associated services. Orbital Sciences will supply its **STAR-2™** spacecraft platform and carry out final spacecraft, payload and system integration and testing activities. Scheduled for delivery and launch in mid- to late-2010, Koreasat 6 will be equipped with 30 Ku-band transponders to provide Direct Broadcast Services and Fixed Satellite Services for South Korea from the 116°EL orbital location. The spacecraft will weigh 2,750 kg at launch and will support 3.4 kilowatts of payload power during its 15-year operational life.

### Sea Launch Places Galaxy 18 in Orbit

On May 21, **Sea Launch Company, LLC** successfully orbited the **Galaxy 18** communications satellite for **Intelsat, Ltd.** The launch service was performed from the Sea Launch **Odyssey** platform positioned in the equatorial Pacific Ocean on a **Zenit-3SL** rocket with a **Block DM-SL** upper stage. Galaxy 18 was built by **Space Systems/Loral** based on its **1300** series platform, is equipped with 24 high power Ku-band and 24 C-band transponders and weighed approximately 4,640 kg at launch. The spacecraft will be positioned at the 123°WL orbital location to serve programmers, government and corporate broadband customers in the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

### Khrunichev Acquires ILS

On May 30, the **Khrunichev State Research and Production Space Center** announced that it has acquired the 51% stake held in **International Launch Services Inc.** (ILS) by majority shareholder **Space Transport Inc.**, raising its ownership of the launch services provider to 83%. The other 17% is held by the Russian company **Energia**, meaning that ILS is currently owned exclusively by Russian shareholders. The transaction remains subject to a review by the **U.S. Treasury Department Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States.**

### Satellite Financings Announced in May

On May 20, **SES S.A.** (Euronext Paris and Luxembourg Stock Exchange: **SESG**) announced the successful closing of a €500m (\$857.5m) revolving credit facility for general corporate purposes. The oversubscribed facility was increased from a launch amount of €350m and included a syndicate of 20 banks. The facility was arranged by **ABN AMRO Bank N.V.**, **The Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi UFJ Ltd.**, **BNP Paribas** and **Fortis Bank S.A./N.V.** Also on May 20, **Dish Network Corp.** announced that its subsidiary, **EchoStar DBS Corp.** plans to raise \$750m aggregate principal amount of senior debt securities. The debt securities will be issued as 7.75% Senior Notes due 2015. The proceeds of the offering, originally planned for \$500m, are intended for general corporate purposes. On May 21 it was reported that **Al Yah Satellite Communications Company** (Yahsat) plans to raise \$1.2bn through a 14-year, non-recourse facility to finance its satellite communications system. The financing would raise \$1bn in term loans, \$100m in stand-by term loans and \$85m as a debt service reserve letter of credit. Yahsat has appointed BNP Paribas as its financial advisor to manage the financing process, which is expected to involve a club of 15 banks and to close by August 2008. On May 22, **Hughes Communications Inc.** announced that it is offering 2 million common shares priced at \$50 per share. Certain stockholders, including members of Hughes' senior management, are selling an additional 239,600 shares as part of the offering. Hughes will use the offering proceeds to purchase a satellite or for general corporate purposes.