

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

Intelsat 22 to Host Australian Payload

Intelsat, Ltd. announced on April 27 that it has entered into a "hosted payload" contract with the **Australian Defence Force (ADF)** for the provision of a specialized UHF communications payload on the **Intelsat 22** satellite (IS 22) expected to be launched in the first quarter of 2012. As part of the contract, valued at approximately \$167m, Intelsat will be responsible for the construction, integration and operation of the UHF payload and related services for the expected 15-year satellite service life. IS 22 will be built by **Boeing Space and Intelligence Systems** based on its **702B** platform and equipped with 48 C-band and 24 Ku-band transponders, plus a UHF payload with eighteen 25 kHz channels. The satellite will be positioned at the 72°EL orbital location to provide capacity for commercial, civil and military network services and applications, as well as media services to customers in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the Indian Ocean.

Iridium and GHL Acquisition Amend Terms

On April 28, **Iridium Holdings LLC** and **GHL Acquisition Corp.**, a special purpose acquisition company founded by **Greenhill & Co., Inc.**, announced an amendment to their definitive combination (merger) agreement to reduce the aggregate consideration payable by GHL Acquisition to Iridium's existing shareholders by 15% due to recent changes in equity market valuation levels. The amended agreement reflects an enterprise value of \$517.3m for Iridium, which expects its operational EBITDA to reach \$120-130m for the full year 2009, a 12% year-on-year increase from 2008, as well as a net 20% growth of its subscriber base.

SES ASTRA and Yahsat Form YahLive

On April 20, **SES ASTRA** announced that it has partnered with **Al Yah Satellite Communications Company (Yahsat)** to provide direct-to-home satellite services to free-to-air and pay-TV broadcasters in the Middle East, North Africa and South-West Asia. The new joint venture, operating under the **YahLive** brand, will own and operate 23 Ku-band transponders on the **Yahsat 1A** satellite to be positioned at the 52.5°EL orbital location. The satellite, procured from a consortium of **EADS Astrium** and **Thales Alenia Space**, is currently under construction and is expected to be launched in the fourth quarter of 2010. Yahsat is owned by **Mubadala**, the investment arm of the Abu Dhabi government.

Eutelsat's W2A – Launch Success

On April 3, **International Launch Services (ILS)** announced the successful launch of the **W2A** satellite from the **Baikonur Cosmodrome** in Kazakhstan on a **Proton-M** launcher. The satellite, built for **Eutelsat Communications** by **Thales Alenia Space** on its **Spacebus 4000 C4** platform, is equipped with 46 Ku-band transponders, 10 C-band transponders and an S-band payload. From its 10°EL orbital location, W2A will provide Ku-band capacity in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Indian Ocean and C-band capacity in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, India and Latin America. Additionally, the satellite's S-band payload will be used by **Solaris Mobile**, a joint venture between Eutelsat and **SES Astra**, to provide capacity to pan-European mobile video, radio and information systems service providers. W2A weighed 5,900 kg at launch and has a design life of 15 years.

Lockheed Martin to Build JCSAT-13

Lockheed Martin announced on April 16 that it has signed a contract with **SKY Perfect JSAT Corporation** to manufacture its next communications satellite, **JCSAT-13**. The satellite will be built using Lockheed's **A2100AX** platform and will feature an all Ku-band payload with 44 fixed high-power communications channels that will provide broadcasting/telecommunications services to Japan and the Asia-Pacific region from the 124°EL orbital location. JCSAT-13 is expected to have a 15-year design life and to weigh approximately 4,500 kg at launch. The satellite is scheduled for launch by **Arianespace** from the **Guiana Space Centre** in **Kourou, French Guiana** in 2013.

Arianespace to Launch New Dawn Satellite

On April 14 **Arianespace** announced that it was selected to launch the **Intelsat New Dawn** satellite for **New Dawn Satellite Company Ltd.**, a joint venture between **Intelsat, Ltd.** and a South African investor group led by **Convergence Partners**. The satellite is being built by **Orbital Sciences Corporation** using its **STAR-2™** platform and will be equipped with 28 C-band and 24 Ku-band transponders to provide new capacity to Africa for voice, wireless backhaul, Internet and media services from the 33°EL orbital location. New Dawn is expected to weigh approximately 3,000 kg at launch and have a 15-year design life following its launch in late 2010.

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