

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

# Space Business Review

## DISH & SIRIUS XM Price Debt Offerings

**DISH Network Corporation** announced on August 12 that its subsidiary, **DISH DBS Corporation**, priced an offering of \$1b aggregate principal amount of debt securities at an issue price of 97.467%. The debt securities will be issued as 7.875% senior notes due 2019, with the net proceeds to be used for general corporate purposes. On August 13, **SIRIUS XM Radio** announced that it priced an offering of \$257m of senior secured notes due 2015. The notes will bear interest at an annual rate of 9.75%. The price to investors will be 97.248% of the principal amount and the company will receive gross proceeds of approximately \$250m. The net proceeds of the sale, after deducting commissions and expenses, will be used by SIRIUS XM Radio to repay indebtedness incurred under its credit agreement with **Liberty Media Corporation**.

## August Launches

**International Launch Services, Inc.** (ILS) announced on August 12 the successful launch of the **AsiaSat 5** satellite for **Asia Satellite Telecommunications Co. Ltd.** from the **Baikonur Cosmodrome** on a **Proton Breeze M** launcher. The satellite, built by **Space Systems/Loral** based on its **1300** platform, is equipped with 26 C-band and 14 Ku-band transponders to provide advanced satellite services including television broadcast, voice, enterprise and VSAT network for broadband multimedia services across the Asia-Pacific region. AsiaSat 5 will replace the **AsiaSat 2** satellite at the 100.5°EL orbital location. On August 21, **Arianespace S.A.** successfully launched, on an **Ariane 5 ECA** launcher, the **JCSAT-12** satellite for **SKY Perfect JSAT Corporation** and the **Optus D3** satellite for **SingTel Optus**, an Australian subsidiary of **Singapore Telecommunications Ltd.** Weighing nearly 4,000 kg at launch, JCSAT-12 was built by **Lockheed Martin Commercial Space Systems** and includes a payload of 30 Ku-band and 12 C-band transponders to provide communications services to Japan, the Asia-Pacific region, Oceania and Hawaii. Optus D3, manufactured by **Orbital Sciences Corporation** based on its **STAR™** platform, is equipped with 32 Ku-band transponders and will provide fixed communications and direct television broadcasting services to Australia and New Zealand from the 156°EL orbital location.

## GHL Acquisition – Iridium Update

On August 17, **GHL Acquisition Corp.** (GHL Acquisition) and **Iridium Holdings LLC** (Iridium) announced that the **Federal Communications Commission** approved the companies' proposed combination transaction. Initially announced in September 2008, the deal is intended to advance Iridium's plans to build its **Iridium NEXT** generation satellite constellation and will result in Iridium becoming a publicly traded company. As part of the transaction, GHL Acquisition announced a warrant restructuring whereby it will repurchase or restructure approximately 26.8m warrants upon closing of the combination transaction.

## JSC ISS Selected For RSCC Satellites

On August 12, **JSC "Academician M.F. Reshetnev" Information Satellite Systems** (JSC ISS) and the Russian state satellite operator **RSCC** announced a contract for the delivery of the **Express-AM5** and **Express-AM6** satellites to be launched in 2012. The two spacecraft, to be built by JSC ISS jointly with the **Russian Scientific Institute of Radio** (NIIR) and **Thales Alenia Space**, are designed to provide telecommunications infrastructure and digital television and radio broadcasting services within the Russian Federation. Express-AM5 will include 30 C-, 40 Ku-, 12 Ka- and 2 L-band transponders and will be located at the 140°EL orbital position, while Express-AM6 will be equipped with 14 C-, 44 Ku-, 12 Ka- and 2 L-band transponders and will be located at the 53°EL orbital slot.

## Abu Dhabi Group Invests in Virgin Galactic

**Virgin Galactic** and **Aabar Investments** of Abu Dhabi have entered into a strategic partnership which involves Aabar investing \$280m for a 32% (approximate) stake in Virgin Galactic's holding company. Aabar has additionally committed \$100m to fund a small satellite launch capability for the commercial spaceliner. The transaction is subject to regulatory clearances in the US.

## Intelsat Buys Amos-1 Satellite

On August 12, **Intelsat, Ltd.** announced the purchase of the **Amos-1** satellite from **Israel Aerospace Industries**. Intelsat will rename the satellite **Intelsat 24** and move it to an orbital location over the Indian Ocean as part of a specific contract. Amos-1 is currently in inclined orbit and has been operated by **Spacecom** of Israel at the 4°WL orbital slot since May 1996.

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