

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

\$1.8b In Credit Commitments for Iridium

On August 4, **Iridium Communications Inc.** announced that it has received in excess of \$1.8b of commitments from a syndicate of banks in connection with the credit facility that will be used to finance the construction of the company's next-generation satellite constellation, **Iridium NEXT**. The Coface-backed facility will bear an interest rate below 6%, the majority of which will be at a fixed rate, and with a repayment term from 2017 through 2024. Iridium expects to sign and close the credit facility later this year.

Digital Globe and GeoEye NGA Contracts

On August 6 and August 9 respectively, **DigitalGlobe Inc.** and **GeoEye Imagery Collection Systems Inc.** announced that the **National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency** awarded them separate 10-year contracts as part of the **EnhancedView** commercial imagery program. DigitalGlobe received an award for \$3.5b and GeoEye an award for \$3.8b. DigitalGlobe's contract involves supplying imagery from its **WorldView** satellite constellation under a service level agreement worth \$2.8b and provision of value-added products and other services worth up to \$750m. GeoEye's award includes \$2.8b in commercial satellite imagery purchases over the next 10 years, a \$337m cost share for the development and launch of the **GeoEye-2** satellite and \$700m for value-added products and services.

Boeing Receives New Satellite Orders

On August 6, the **Boeing Company** announced that it has received a contract from **Inmarsat Plc** to build 3 Ka-band satellites based on its **702 HP** platform. The new **Inmarsat-5** satellites will each generate 89 Ka-band beams and be used to launch Inmarsat's **Global Xpress** service consisting of VSAT services for maritime, energy and government sectors. Boeing also entered into a distribution partnership with Inmarsat to provide L- and Ka-band capacity services to key users within the U.S. government.

Intelsat S.A. announced on August 16 that it has signed an agreement with **Boeing Space and Intelligence Systems** for the manufacturing of a second ultra-high frequency (UHF) hosted payload on the **Intelsat 27** satellite (IS-27). IS-27 will be equipped with 39 C-band and Ku-band transponders to provide optimized video, network and voice services to the Americas and Europe from the 55°WL orbital location.

New Launch Orders for Arianespace

On August 5, **Arianespace S.A.** announced that it has contracted with **Intelsat S.A.** to launch the **Intelsat-20** satellite on an **Ariane 5 ECA** from the **Guiana Space Center** in French Guiana in Q2 of 2012. Being built by **Space Systems/Loral** based on its **1300** platform and equipped with 28 C-band and 46 Ku-band transponders, Intelsat-20 will replace the **Intelsat-7** and **Intelsat-10** satellites to provide telecommunications, video, voice and data transmission services from the 68.5°EL orbital location. Also on August 5, Arianespace announced a contract with the **Indian Space Research Organization** to launch the **GSAT 10** satellite on a **Ariane 5 ECA** launcher in Q1 of 2012. GSAT 10 will provide communications, navigation and broadcasting services to the entire Indian sub-continent from the 83°EL orbital location.

Arianespace Launches Two Satellites

On August 4, **Arianespace S.A.** successfully launched the **NILESAT 201** direct broadcast satellite for **Nilesat** of Egypt and the **RASCOM-QAF1R** communications satellite for the pan-African operator **RascomStar-QAF**, on an **Ariane 5 ECA** launcher. Both satellites were built by **Thales Alenia Space**. NILESAT 201, based on a **Spacebus 4000B2** platform, is equipped with 24 Ku-band and 4 Ka-band transponders to provide broadband DTH television broadcast services to North Africa and the Middle East from the 7°WL orbital location. RASCOM-QAF1R, based on a Thales **Spacebus 4000B3** platform, is equipped with 12 Ku-band and 8 C-band transponders and will be located at the 2.85°EL orbital location with a footprint covering the entire African continent, as well as parts of Europe and the Middle East. It will provide communications services to rural parts of Africa.

World Summit for Satellite Financing

As part of **Euroconsult's World Satellite Business Week**, the **2010 World Summit for Satellite Financing** will be held at the Westin Hotel in Paris on Sept. 7-9. The conference will be followed by a symposium on Earth observation business on Sept. 9-10. Last year's conference attracted over 500 industry executives and included approximately 100 top-level speakers representing all sectors of the commercial space industry. **Milbank** is proud to once again be an official partner for this highly-regarded industry event.