

## - SPECIAL EDITION: THE TOP-10 SPACE BUSINESS STORIES OF 2010 -

## Space Business Review

**#1 – ECAs Take Center Stage**

Export credit agencies played a major role in space financings in 2010. **COFACE** of France backed a \$1.8b credit facility for **Iridium Communications Inc.** for its **Iridium NEXT** constellation, a \$1.2b facility for **O3b Networks Limited** and a \$115m loan for **Hughes Network Systems, LLC.** The U.S. **Ex-Im Bank** loaned \$215.6m to **Avanti Communications Group plc**, \$171.5m to **SES S.A.** and \$666m to **Inmarsat plc** for its **Global Xpress™** program.

**#2 – Debt & Equity Markets Heat Up**

Markets end on a high note in 2010. **SIRIUS XM Radio Inc.** closed \$910m in note offerings, **ViaSat, Inc.** closed a public offering of 6.9m of its shares, **Eutelsat S.A.** refinanced €1.3b of debt, **Inmarsat plc** closed a debt facility of €225m, **Avanti Communications** raised approx. £70m in a share placement, **Intelsat Jackson Holdings S.A.** priced \$1b aggregate amount of notes and **LightSquared™ Inc.** secured \$850m in debt.

**#3 – New Direction in Space Access**

As NASA's Space Shuttle program wound down and the Constellation Program was restructured to retain a "commercial crew" direction with substantially less funding, **Space Exploration Technologies Corporation** celebrated the successful inaugural flight of its **Falcon 9** launcher in June and an equally successful **Dragon** spacecraft launch and recovery mission in December auguring a possible new commercial direction in space transportation.

**#4 – Hosted Payloads Gain Traction**

As part of a growing trend, **SES ASTRA** provided hosted payload services for the **European Commission EGNOS** program on its **ASTRA 5B** satellite, **Intelsat S.A.** and the **Australian Defence Force** extended their hosted payload agreement to cover the entire UHF payload on the **Intelsat 22** satellite and **Iridium NEXT** sought hosted payloads on its next generation LEO satellites.

**#5 – Launch Activity Looks Up**

24 commercial satellites were successfully launched in 2010: **Arianespace:** Intelsat 17, HYLAS 1, W3B, BSAT-3b, six Globalstar-2 satellites (in cooperation with **Starsem, Samara Space Center** and **NPO Lavochkin**), NILESAT 201, RASCOM-QAF1R, Arabsat-5A, ASTRA 3B, Hispasat 1E and Koreasat 6; **International Launch Services:** SkyTerra 1, XM-5, EchoStar XV, BADR-5, SES-1, EchoStar XIV, Intelsat 16 and KA-SAT.

**#6 – Satellite Broadband Market Grows**

The **FCC's National Broadband Plan** stimulated wireless broadband applications by proposing terrestrial use of certain licensed MSS S- and L-band spectrum while the Ka-band satellite broadband market continued to grow with **ViaSat** reporting a 15% increase in subscribers and **Hughes Communications** surpassing 500,000 subscribers. **Avanti Communications** launched the **HYLAS 1** broadband satellite, **LightSquared™ Inc.** launched **SkyTerra 1** and **Eutelsat** launched KA-SAT.

**#7 – Sea Launch Exits Ch. 11**

**Sea Launch Company** successfully completed its Chapter 11 reorganization process with **Sea Launch S.a.r.l.** as the successor entity and **Energia Overseas Limited** of Russia the new majority owner, investing more than \$140m in capital.

**#8 – FSS in Motion**

A number of FSS sector developments took place in 2010: **MEASAT** privatized following its take-over by **MEASAT Global Network Systems Sdn Bhd**; the holding company of **Asia Broadcast Satellite Holdings Ltd.** was acquired by **Permira**-managed funds; the widely anticipated sales process for **Telesat Holdings Inc.** commenced and **Intelsat S.A.** began its recapitalization program.

**#9 – Satellite Manufacturers Keep Up**

19 commercial satellite orders were issued in 2010: **Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp.:** WorldView-3; **Boeing Company:** three Ka-band satellites for **Inmarsat plc** and three **MEXSAT** satellites for the government of Mexico; **EADS Astrium:** SES-6 and W5A; **Lockheed Martin Commercial Space Systems:** VINASAT-2; **Orbital Sciences Corporation:** Azerspace/Africasat-1a; **Space Systems/Loral:** Satmex 8, Anik G1, DIRECTV 14, Amazonas 3, a satellite for **ictQATAR** and **Eutelsat Communications** and ABS-2; **Thales Alenia Space:** Iridium NEXT constellation (72 satellites in-orbit and 9 spares), W3B, APSTAR 7B, W6A, ARSAT-2 and Express AM8, AT1 and AT2.

**#10 – Remote Sensing Develops**

**DigitalGlobe, Inc.** and **GeoEye, Inc.** were awarded separate \$3b+ 10-year contracts by the **National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency** in August. DigitalGlobe executed a secondary offering for 6m of its shares at \$30.25 per share and GeoEye completed the private placement of 80k shares to an affiliate of **Cerberus Capital.**

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