

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

September Launch Services

September 22 - **Arianespace** successfully launched the **Arabsat 5C** and **SES-2** satellites on an **Ariane 5 ECA** launcher. Built by **EADS Astrium** (prime contractor) and **Thales Alenia Space** (payload) based on the **Eurostar E3000** platform, Arabsat 5C is equipped with 26 C- and 12 Ku-band transponders to provide broadcast, IP, VSAT and interactive services to the Middle East from 20°E. **SES-2**, built by **Orbital Sciences** based on its **STAR™ 2.4** bus, includes 24 C- and 24 Ku-band transponders to provide advanced media distribution, enterprise and VSAT services to North America and the Caribbean from 87°W. SES-2 also carries the **U.S. Air Force's Commercially Hosted Infrared Payload**, a wide field of view telescope designed to test infrared sensor technologies.

September 24 - **Sea Launch**, now owned by **Energia Overseas Ltd.** following its U.S. Chapter 11 bankruptcy restructuring, roared back into action with the successful launch of **Eutelsat's Atlantic Bird 7** satellite on a **Zenit 3SL** vehicle from its **Odyssey** seagoing platform positioned in the Pacific Ocean. The satellite, built on the **EADS Astrium Eurostar E3000** platform, will operate at 7°W and is equipped with 44 Ku-band transponders to provide DTH services to the Middle East and North Africa, and a separate beam with 12 Ku-band transponders to provide broadcast and IP services to Northwest Africa.

September 29 - **ILS International Launch Services** successfully launched the **SES S.A. QuetzSat-1** satellite on a **Proton Breeze M** launcher. Built by **Space Systems/Loral** on its **1300** platform, the satellite includes 32 Ku-band transponders and will operate at 77°W to provide broadcast services to North & Central America, plus Mexico. QuetzSat-1's entire capacity has been leased by a subsidiary of **EchoStar Corporation** for 10 years.

HNS and Star One Win Orbital Slot Auction

On August 30, **Anatel**, the Brazilian telecoms regulator, announced **Hughes Network Systems'** Latin American subsidiary **HNS Americas** (HNS) and Brazilian satellite operator **Star One** as the winners of an auction for Brazilian orbital slots and associated spectrum to be made available over the next five years. HNS paid \$91.6m for Ku/Ka-band rights at 45°W and \$22.2m for Ku/Ka/X-band rights at 68.5°W. Star One paid \$23.3m for Ku/Ka-band rights at 84°W and \$23.3m for Ku/Ka/X-band rights at 70°W.

DigitalGlobe to Raise \$600M

On September 21, **DigitalGlobe** announced a tender offer for its \$355m outstanding 10.5% senior secured notes due 2014. In connection with the tender offer, DigitalGlobe plans to raise approximately \$600m through a senior secured debt financing, consisting of a term loan of up to \$500m and a revolving credit facility of up to \$100m. DigitalGlobe will use the term loan to refinance the outstanding 10.5% notes and for general corporate purposes, including stock repurchases and acquisitions. **Morgan Stanley** and **JP Morgan** are serving as the lead arrangers for the financing.

September Launch Services Orders

September 7 - **Hispasat** selected **Arianespace** to launch the **Amazonas 3** satellite on an **Ariane 5** launcher in late 2012 or early 2013. Currently under construction by **Space Systems/Loral** on its **1300** platform, Amazonas 3 will be equipped with 33 Ku-band and 19 C-band transponders, as well as 9 Ka-band spot beams, and will replace the **Amazonas 1** satellite at 61°W to provide broadband services to Latin America.

September 13 - **Arianespace** announced that it will launch the **DIRECTV-14** and **DIRECTV-15** satellites for **DIRECTV** on an **Ariane 5** launcher in 2014, plus two optional future launches. Both satellites are part of a fleet expansion and replenishment program, which will strengthen DIRECTV's DTH digital entertainment services in the U.S. by increasing high-definition channel capacity and adding more 3D channels. DIRECTV-14 is currently being built by **Space Systems/Loral**, while DIRECTV-15 is in the final stages of contract award.

September 30 - **Arianespace** was selected to launch the **Mexsat 3** satellite in late 2012 either as a co-passenger on an **Ariane 5** launcher or as the sole passenger on a **Soyuz** launcher. Currently under construction by **Orbital Sciences**, Mexsat 3 will be equipped with 12 extended C- and 12 extended Ku-band transponders and will operate at 114.9°W. Mexsat 3 is part of a three-satellite program managed by **Boeing Space and Intelligence Systems** for the Mexican government. In addition to Mexsat 3, the program includes the next generation L-band **Mexsat 1** and **Mexsat 2** MSS satellites, both under construction by Boeing.