

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

ViaSat-1 Undergoes In-Orbit Testing

On November 3, **ViaSat, Inc.** announced that its **ViaSat-1** satellite, the highest-throughput satellite in-orbit, with a total capacity in excess of 140 Gbps, had successfully reached geostationary orbit and switched on its payload to begin in-orbit testing. Built by **Space Systems/Loral** and launched by **International Launch Services** on October 19, ViaSat-1 is expected to improve the quality of satellite Ka-band broadband services by offering record-breaking capacity and upload and download speeds. Following completion of in-orbit testing, ViaSat-1 will be moved to its 115.1°W operational orbital location and is scheduled to enter service in late December.

November Satellite Orders

November 4 – **Astrium** announced its selection by **DIRECTV** to manufacture the **DIRECTV-15** satellite based on the **Eurostar E3000 platform**. With 30 Ku-, 24 Ka- and 18 Reverse Band transponders, the satellite is designed to operate from up to five orbital locations ranging from 99°W to 119°W and will provide back-up/fleet expansion capacity.

November 11 – **Space Systems/Loral** announced a contract with **Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited** for the **AsiaSat 6** and **AsiaSat 8** communications satellite programs based on **SS/L's 1300** platform. AsiaSat 6 will include 28 high-power C-band transponders and AsiaSat 8 will be equipped with 24 Ku-band transponders and a Ka-band beam. Both satellites are expected to be launched by early 2014.

November 23 – **Thales Alenia Space** announced that it was selected by the government of **Turkmenistan** to manufacture its first Ku-band communications satellite based on the **Spacebus 4000 C2** platform. Pursuant to an agreement with **Space Systems International-Monaco S.A.M.**, Turkmenistan will operate the satellite from the 52°E orbital location.

Thales Alenia and ISS Reshetnev Sign Pact

On November 18, satellite manufacturers **Thales Alenia Space** of France and **ISS Reshetnev** of Russia signed an agreement for a joint venture to develop, produce and integrate new communications satellite platforms, as well as components and subassemblies for satellite platforms and payloads. Thales Alenia Space and Reshetnev have previously cooperated on more than a dozen satellite programs.

O3b Networks Secures \$137m Financing

On November 10, **O3b Networks** announced that it raised \$137m for the construction of four satellites to be launched in 2014, which will add to O3b's fleet of eight MEO satellites scheduled for launch in 2013. This expansion of O3b's MEO fleet will nearly double capacity, boost redundancy over emerging markets and increase system throughput by more than 90%. The financing involves the expansion of O3b's **Coface**-backed senior debt facility by an additional \$85m from **HSBC, ING, CA-CIB** and **Dexia**, as well as new equity from certain of O3b's original investors and Luxembourgish investment company **Luxempart**. O3b has already sold more than a third of its capacity, with the contracted backlog at over \$600m.

November Launch Services Orders

November 9 – **International Launch Services** announced a contract to launch **Eutelsat's W3D** satellite on an **ILS Proton** launcher in 2013. Currently under construction by **Thales Alenia Space** based on its **Spacebus 4000 C3** platform, W3D will be located at 7°E and will provide Ku-band coverage across Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia for video links and data networks, over Europe and Turkey for DTH and across Sub-Saharan Africa and Indian Ocean islands for telecommunications and Internet services.

November 14 – **Arianespace** announced that **DIRECTV** exercised an option in its multi-launch contract for the launch of an additional satellite that will provide high definition, 3-D television and cinema programming across Latin America. Currently under construction by **Space Systems/Loral**, the satellite is scheduled for launch on an **Ariane 5** launcher in 2014 and will operate from the 95°W orbital location.

AsiaSat 7 Launched Successfully

On November 26, **International Launch Services** successfully launched **Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited's AsiaSat 7** satellite on a **Proton Breeze M** from the **Baikonur Cosmodrome** in Kazakhstan. The **Space Systems/Loral**-built satellite is equipped with 28 C- and 17 Ku-band transponders, as well as a Ka-band payload, and is designed to replace **AsiaSat 3S** at the 105.5°E orbital location to provide television broadcast and VSAT network services across the Asia-Pacific region.

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