

January Investment Round-Up

January 16 – The **Grand Duchy of Luxembourg** announced the closing of the initial funding round for **Orbital Ventures**, a new investment fund based in Luxembourg dedicated to supporting early stage innovative space companies, with a focus on businesses generating or expected to generate revenues in the near term. The funding round raised €70m from nine investors, including **SES S.A.**, **OHB AG**, **BNP Paribas**, **Promus Ventures** and Luxembourg's state-owned **Société Nationale de Crédit et d'Investissement** (SNCI), with SNCI's investment accounting for €36m of the total.

January 16 – **SpinLaunch Inc.** (SpinLaunch), a California-based launch services startup, announced that it raised \$35m in a new investment round, bringing to \$80m the total amount of funding raised by the company to date. Participants in the investment round included **Airbus Ventures**, **GV**, **KPCB**, **Catapult Ventures** and **Lauder Partners**. SpinLaunch is developing an alternative launch system based on a large mass accelerator capable of achieving hypersonic velocities.

January 22 – The **European Investment Bank** agreed to provide a 10-year contingent loan for €100m to **ArianeGroup** to support introduction and early stage commercial operation of the **Ariane 6** launch vehicle. ArianeGroup will not have to repay the loan if Ariane 6 is not a commercial success, which will be determined based on specified annual launch cadence metrics.

Kepler Decides to Manufacture Its Own Satellites

Citing congestion in the smallsat manufacturing supply chain, **Kepler Communications Inc.** announced on January 28 that it will manufacture all 140 of the satellites that are expected to comprise its planned low Earth orbit constellation for the provision of narrowband Internet-of-Things and wideband communications services globally, at a new Toronto facility.

Eutelsat Confirms Solar Array Failure

On January 17, following an investigation into a malfunction of one of the solar rays of the **EUTELSAT 5 West B satellite**, **Eutelsat Communications S.A.** (Eutelsat) confirmed the failure of the satellite's South solar array. Due to the resulting loss in power, Eutelsat is now limited to operating only 45% of the satellite's capacity. EUTELSAT 5 West B was launched in October 2019 to replace the **EUTELSAT 5 West A** satellite; it is insured for up to \$191m against partial and total loss.

January Launch Services Performed

January 16 – **ExPace Technology Corporation**, a commercial subsidiary of **China Aerospace and Industry Corporation**, successfully launched the **Yinhe-1** commercial 5G satellite into low Earth orbit on a **Kuaizhou-1A** launch vehicle.

January 16 – **Arianespace S.A.** successfully launched the **EUTELSAT KONNECT** satellite for **Eutelsat S.A.** and the **GSAT-30** satellite for the **Indian Space Research Organisation** (ISRO) on an **Ariane 5** launch vehicle. EUTELSAT KONNECT was manufactured by **Thales Alenia Space** as the first satellite based on the **Spacebus NEO** platform; it will provide coverage of Europe and Africa. GSAT-30 was manufactured by ISRO; it will provide services across the Indian subcontinent.

January 6 & 29 – **Space Exploration Technologies Corp.** successfully performed its third and fourth launch missions for its **Starlink** broadband constellation, on each occasion orbiting 60 satellites using the **Falcon 9** launch vehicle.

HISPASAT Selects Thales for Amazonas Nexus

On January 10, **HISPASAT** announced that it selected **Thales Alenia Space** to manufacture the **Amazonas Nexus** satellite, which will replace the **Amazonas 2** satellite at the 61°W orbital position to provide communications services to users across the Americas, Greenland and the North Atlantic corridor.

January Launch Services Orders

January 13 – **Arianespace S.A.** (Arianespace) announced that it will launch the **Falcon Eye 2** satellite of the **United Arab Emirates** (UAE) on a **Soyuz** launch vehicle in March, rather than on a **Vega** launch vehicle later this year, pursuant to an option under the contract between Arianespace and the satellite's manufacturer, **Airbus Defence and Space**. Vega remains grounded as a result of the July failure that destroyed the UAE's **Falcon Eye 1** satellite.

January 21 – **Firefly Aerospace, Inc.** (Firefly) announced that it entered into a launch services agreement with launch services broker **Innovative Space Logistics BV** (ISILAUNCH), whereby Firefly will provide multiple dedicated and rideshare launch opportunities to customers of ISILAUNCH on the **Alpha** launch vehicle beginning in 2020.

January 24 – **Space Exploration Technologies Corp.** announced that it was selected by **Nilesat** to launch the **Nilesat-301** satellite on a **Falcon 9** launch vehicle in 2022.

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