

## FCC Approves \$9.7b in Incentives to Clear C-Band for 5G

On February 28, the U.S. **Federal Communications Commission (FCC)** approved a proposal to pay satellite operators **Intelsat S.A.**, **SES S.A.**, **Eutelsat S.A.**, **Telesat Canada** and **Embratel, Star One S.A.** up to \$9.7b in total incentive payments, provided that, by September 2023, they clear out of the lower 300 MHz of the 500 MHz of 3.7-4.2 GHz C-band spectrum they currently use, as well as up to \$5b in qualifying spectrum relocation cost reimbursements.

## Spaceflight to Sell Rideshare Launch Business to Mitsui

On February 11, **Spaceflight Industries, Inc.** (Spaceflight) announced that it entered into a definitive agreement with **Mitsui & Co., Ltd.**, in partnership with **Yamasa Co., Ltd.**, to sell **Spaceflight, Inc.**, its satellite rideshare launch business. Financial details of the transaction were not disclosed. Spaceflight intends to invest the proceeds from the sale in its geospatial intelligence business, **BlackSky**.

## February Financing Round-Up

**February 3** – French IoT connectivity provider **Kinéis** announced that it raised €100m from parent company **Collecte Localisation Satellites** and other private and public investors, including French space agency **CNES**. The company plans to deploy 25 nanosatellites beginning in 2022 to supplement its hosted payloads and prototype satellite already in orbit.

**February 13** – According to press reports not yet confirmed by the company, **Astranis Space Technologies Corp.** – a start-up that is developing an innovative system of micro-geostationary orbit satellites for the provision of low-cost Internet – announced that it raised \$90m in a Series B financing round led by **Venrock Associates**, with participation from existing investor **Andreessen Horowitz LLC**, among others.

## MEV-1 Successfully Docks to Intelsat 901

On February 25, the **Mission Extension Vehicle-1** spacecraft of **Northrop Grumman Corporation** subsidiary **SpaceLogistics LLC** successfully docked to its first life extension client satellite, the **Intelsat 901** satellite, in geostationary orbit, marking the first ever docking of two commercial spacecraft in orbit.

## MELCO Completes New Manufacturing Facility

On February 18, **Mitsubishi Electric Corporation** announced the completion of its new \$99m Kamakura Works manufacturing facility in Kamakura, Japan, which boosts the company's production capacity from 10 to 18 satellites per year.

## February Launch Services Performed

**February 7** – **Arianespace S.A.** successfully launched 34 satellites for the **OneWeb** system – all manufactured by **Airbus OneWeb Satellites LLC** at its Florida facility – on a **Soyuz** launch vehicle, marking OneWeb's first fully dedicated launch and bringing to 40 the total number of its satellites in orbit.

**February 17** – **Space Exploration Technologies Corp.** successfully launched 60 more satellites for its **Starlink** broadband constellation on the **Falcon 9** launch vehicle.

**February 18** – **Arianespace S.A.** successfully launched the **JCSAT-17** satellite for **SKY Perfect JSAT Corporation** and the **GEO-KOMPSAT-2B** satellite for **Korea Aerospace Research Institute** on an **Ariane 5** launch vehicle. JCSAT-17 was manufactured by **Lockheed Martin Corporation**; it will provide connectivity services to Japan's **NTT Docomo Inc.** in the C- and S-bands and other customers in Ku-band. GEO-KOMPSAT-2B features two main payloads supplied by **Airbus Defence and Space SAS** and **Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp.**, respectively, and will be used to monitor air pollution and marine conditions around the Korean peninsula.

## Intelsat Selects Maxar to Manufacture Intelsat 40e

On February 3, **Intelsat S.A.** announced that it selected **Maxar Technologies Inc.** (Maxar) to manufacture the **Intelsat 40e** HTS satellite based on its **1300** satellite platform, revealing the customer for the satellite order disclosed by Maxar in November 2019. Intelsat 40e is scheduled for launch in 2022.

## February Launch Services Orders

**February 4** – **Firefly Aerospace, Inc.** announced that it was selected by **SATLANTIS MICROSATS S.L.**, a provider of high-performance payload technologies for Earth observation and remote sensing, to provide launch services using the **Alpha** launch vehicle beginning in 2022 for a constellation of satellites featuring high-resolution multispectral cameras.

**February 6** – **Astrocast S.A.** announced that it entered into agreement with **Spaceflight, Inc.** for the launch of 10 nanosatellites for its planned 100-nanosatellite IoT constellation, which will offer low latency L-band data transmission services globally.

## Relativity Announces New Facility in California

On February 28, **Relativity Space Inc.** announced that it is relocating to a new 120,000 sq. ft. headquarters and launch vehicle manufacturing facility in Long Beach, California.

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