

OneWeb Files for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy

On March 27, unable to progress a financing round as a result of the financial impact and market turbulence amid the COVID-19 pandemic, satellite broadband company **OneWeb Global Ltd.** (OneWeb) and certain of its affiliates voluntarily filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York. OneWeb's filing indicates that its current liabilities amount to roughly \$2.1b. The company's current shareholders include **SoftBank Group Corp.**, **Qualcomm Global Trading Pte. Ltd.** and **Airbus SE**, holding equity stakes of approximately 37%, 16% and 8.5% respectively. OneWeb announced that it plans to pursue a sale process in order to maximize the value of its business.

More Space Industry Reactions to COVID-19 Pandemic

March 16 – **Arianespace S.A.** announced that launch campaigns at the Guiana Space Centre in French Guiana have been suspended due to COVID-19 and associated French government directives.

March 16, 19 – **DISH Network Corporation** announced that it is providing its portfolio of 600 MHz spectrum to **T-Mobile** and 20 MHz of AWS-4 (Band 66) and all of its 700 MHz spectrum to **AT&T**, all at no cost for 60 days, as part of an **FCC** program to support connectivity needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

March 30 – **Virgin Orbit LLC** announced that it has developed, and will soon begin producing at its Long Beach facility, a new bridge ventilator to be used in providing care to partially recovered patients suffering from COVID-19.

March Financing Round-Up

March 2 – **PredaSAR Corporation** announced that it closed a \$25m seed financing round led by **Rokk3r Fuel ExO**. The company plans to deploy the world's largest Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite constellation.

March 3 – **AST & Science, LLC** (AST) announced that it attracted investments from **Rakuten, Inc.** and **Vodafone Group plc**, bringing its current funding to \$128m. AST is developing a constellation of low-Earth orbit satellites, named **SpaceMobile**, to provide space-based 4G and, later, 5G cellular service directly to smartphones without specialized satellite hardware.

March 9 – **Astrocast S.A.** announced that it received a strategic investment of undisclosed value from **Marine Instruments S.A.**, one of the world's largest customers of bidirectional satellite Internet-of-Things services.

March Launch Services Performed

March 16 – China's first attempted launch mission using its new **Long March 7A** launch vehicle, which was carrying a classified satellite, was unsuccessful. The cause and nature of the failure have not yet been disclosed.

March 18 – **Space Exploration Technologies Corp.** successfully launched 60 satellites for its **Starlink** broadband constellation on a **Falcon 9** launch vehicle, marking the fifth re-flight of the vehicle's first stage booster, a reusability milestone.

March 21 – Following a 34-satellite launch for **OneWeb** just last month, **Arianespace S.A.** successfully launched another 34 satellites for the OneWeb system on a **Soyuz** launch vehicle. **Airbus OneWeb Satellites LLC** manufactured all 34 of the satellites at its Florida facility. The mission brings to 74 the total number of OneWeb satellites currently in orbit.

Rocket Lab to Acquire Sinclair Interplanetary

On March 16, **Rocket Lab Ltd.** announced that it entered into an agreement to acquire **Sinclair Interplanetary**, a satellite hardware manufacturer based in Toronto, Canada. The financial terms of the acquisition have not been disclosed.

March Launch Services Orders

March 5 – **Capella Space Corp.** selected **Rocket Lab Ltd.** to launch the first Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite for its planned **Whitney** constellation into a mid-inclination orbit on an **Electron** launch vehicle in mid-2020. In other news, on March 17, **NASA** certified **Electron** for the launch of low-cost scientific, educational and technology demonstration small satellites.

March 17 – **Intelsat S.A.** selected **Space Exploration Technologies Corp.** (SpaceX) to launch the **Intelsat 40e** satellite on a **Falcon 9** launch vehicle in 2022. Currently being manufactured by **Maxar Technologies Inc.**, the satellite will provide high-throughput connectivity services in Ku- and Ka-band for government, in-flight connectivity and enterprise customers in North America. **Intelsat 40e** will also carry the **Tropospheric Emissions: Monitoring of Pollution** hosted payload for **NASA**. In an unrelated development, on March 27, **NASA** selected **SpaceX** to provide cargo transportation services, using its new **Dragon XL** spacecraft and the **Falcon Heavy** launch vehicle, for **NASA's Gateway Logistics Services** program, which will arrange cargo transportation to and from the lunar **Gateway** in support of crewed missions to both the Gateway and the moon's surface.

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