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EchoStar, AT&T Agree to \$22.65b Spectrum Deal

On August 26, **EchoStar Corporation** (EchoStar) and **AT&T Inc.** (AT&T) announced an agreement whereby EchoStar will sell to AT&T 50 MHz of mid- and low-band spectrum licenses for \$22.65b and EchoStar will receive rights to use AT&T's network as a hybrid mobile network operator.

August Fundraising Activity

August 7 – Japanese space propulsion start-up **Pale Blue Inc.** raised \$10m in a Series C funding round, with participation from **aStart Co., Ltd.**, **Nissay Capital Co., Ltd.**, **Mitsubishi Electric Corporation** (through its **ME Innovation Fund**), and others.

August 18 – **SpinLaunch, Inc.** raised \$30m in funding for the development and commercialization of its **Meridian Space** low Earth orbit broadband constellation. The investment round was led by **ATW Partners LLC** and included a previously announced strategic investment from **Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace**.

August 19 – Investment firm **Veteran Ventures Capital LLC** closed a \$60m national security space-focused investment fund with investment from the **Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation**, the **State of Tennessee**, university endowments, and wealth management firms, among others.

August 26 – Belgian satellite manufacturer **Aerospacelab S.A.** raised €94m in an extended Series B funding round consisting of €56m from new and existing partners and €38m from an unspecified European financial institution.

August Mergers & Acquisitions

August 5 – **AST SpaceMobile, Inc.** announced an agreement to acquire an unspecified entity that holds global S-band spectrum priority rights for a purchase price of \$64.5m.

August 7, 18 – **Voyager Technologies, Inc.** announced the acquisition of remote sensing research and development firm **ElectroMagnetic Systems, Inc.** and an investment in artificial intelligence company **Latent AI, Inc.**, both on undisclosed terms.

August 12 – **Rocket Lab Corporation** completed its acquisition of remote sensing payload supplier **Geost LLC** for \$275m.

August 18 – U.S. investment firm **Platinum Equity Advisors, LLC** agreed to acquire in-flight connectivity provider **Anuvu Operations LLC** on undisclosed terms.

August Investment Activity

August 20 – **Sumitomo Corporation**, through its subsidiary **Sumitomo Corporation of Americas**, announced an unspecified investment in space-based analytics firm **Ursa Space Systems Inc.** (Ursa) and agreed to represent Ursa in the Japanese market.

August 28 – **Lockheed Martin Ventures**, a subsidiary of **Lockheed Martin Corporation**, invested approximately \$3m in **mPower Technology Inc.**, a producer of solar arrays for spacecraft.

August Launch Missions Performed

August 4, 13, 14, 18, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30 – **Space Exploration Technologies Corp.** (SpaceX) successfully launched batches of 28, 24, 28, 24, 24, 28, 28, 24 and 28 **Starlink** satellites, respectively, including an unspecified number of direct-to-device satellites, each time using a **Falcon 9** launch vehicle and then recovering the launch vehicle's first stage.

August 4, 17, 25 – The **China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation** launched three batches of **Guowang** satellites into low Earth orbit using a **Long March 12**, **Long March 6A** and **Long March 8A** launch vehicle, respectively.

August 5 – **Rocket Lab Corporation** (Rocket Lab) successfully launched a synthetic aperture radar satellite to low Earth orbit for Japan's **Institute for Q-shu Pioneers of Space, Inc.** using an **Electron** launch vehicle.

August 11 – SpaceX successfully delivered 24 **Kuiper** communications satellites to low Earth orbit for **Kuiper Systems LLC**, bringing the constellation to 102 satellites, using a Falcon 9 launch vehicle and recovering the launch vehicle's first stage.

August 13 – **Arianespace SAS** successfully launched the **Metop-SGA1** weather satellite to sun synchronous orbit for European agency **EUMETSAT** using an **Ariane 6** launch vehicle.

August 19 – Launch start-up **Guangzhou Zhongke Aerospace Exploration Technology Co., Ltd.** successfully delivered seven satellites to low Earth orbit using a **Kinetica-1** launch vehicle.

August 23 – Rocket Lab successfully launched five satellites into low Earth orbit for an undisclosed commercial customer using an Electron launch vehicle and later opened Launch Complex 3 in Virginia, a dedicated launch facility for its **Neutron** launch vehicle.

August 26 – SpaceX successfully conducted the **NAOS** mission for **OHB Italia S.p.A.**, delivering the optical satellite, along with 11 other payloads, to low Earth orbit using a Falcon 9 launch vehicle and recovering the launch vehicle's first stage.

August 26 – SpaceX conducted the tenth flight test of its **Starship** launch vehicle, achieving all major objectives. Starship successfully reached its planned suborbital trajectory, deployed eight Starlink mass simulators, demonstrated an in-space engine relight, and performed a controlled reentry of the upper stage.

EchoStar Selects MDA for Satellite Constellation Order

On August 1, **EchoStar Corporation** selected **MDA Space Ltd.** to manufacture 100 initial satellites for its planned low Earth orbit direct-to-device constellation under a \$1.3b contract.

Trump Administration Seeks Simplified Launch Regulations

On August 13, the Trump Administration published an executive order directing the **U.S. Department of Transportation** to streamline launch regulations.

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