

# **Space Business Review**

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

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#### June Fundraising Activity

**June 1** – India-based start-up Pixxel Space Technologies, Inc., which is developing a high-resolution, hyperspectral satellite constellation for climate change monitoring, announced that it raised \$36m in a Series B investment round that included the India Digitization Fund of Google Inc.

June 6 – NUVIEW, Inc., a Florida-based start-up that aims to map the entire land surface of the Earth using a constellation of light detection and ranging (LiDAR) satellites, disclosed that it has raised a total of \$15m through seed funding and an ongoing Series A investment round, with participation from a consortium of investors including actor Leonardo DiCaprio.

**June 14** – Satellite-based weather intelligence company Tomorrow.io announced that it raised \$87m in a Series E funding round led by **Activate Capital**.

June 20 – India-based Digantara Research and Technologies Pvt Ltd announced that it raised \$10m in a Series A1 investment round led by Peak XV Partners to fund development of its commercial space situational awareness data collection system, which will feature a constellation of eight satellites, and its associated analytics platform.

June 20 – German space debris monitoring start-up Vyoma GmbH (Vyoma), which plans to deploy a constellation of 12 satellites, announced that it raised €8.5m in its seed funding round, with participation from Safran S.A., which will separately provide technical support for development of Vyoma's system.

June 21 – Virginia-based Scout Space Inc., a start-up developing hosted payloads with space situational awareness capabilities, announced that it raised seed funding of undisclosed value from Decisive Point and Noblis Ventures.

**June 22** – Apex Space announced that it raised \$16m in a Series A investment round led by Andreessen Horowitz and Shield Capital to fund development of its first large-scale factory for mass production of satellite platforms.

### **June Launch Services Orders**

On June 22, Canada-based startup NorthStar Earth & Space Inc. announced that it selected Rocket Lab USA, Inc. to perform three launch missions, including the launch of its first four space situational awareness satellites later this year on an Electron launch vehicle, effectively replacing launch services that were originally contracted to Virgin Orbit LLC but fell into doubt after the launch provider's bankruptcy filing.

## June Mergers & Acquisitions

June 7 – York Space Systems LLC announced that it acquired Maryland-based Emergent Space Technologies, Inc., a developer of flight software and guidance, navigation and control solutions for spacecraft, for an undisclosed amount.

June 8 – Firefly Aerospace Inc. (Firefly) announced that it acquired Spaceflight, Inc. (Spaceflight) for an undisclosed amount. Firefly stated that it intends to leverage Spaceflight's orbital transfer vehicles and mission management experience to diversify and expand but will discontinue Spaceflight's rideshare business upon expiration of existing contracts.

**June 8** – Washington-based thermal data and analytics startup **Hydrosat Inc.**, which has plans to collect data via satellite beginning next year, announced that it acquired **IrriWatch**, a Netherlands-based provider of daily climate, crop, soil and irrigation updates to customers in the agriculture industry. Financial terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

**June 20** – Asia Satellite Telecommunications Holdings Limited announced that it acquired Lightning International Limited, a content distribution and media solutions company.

### **June Launch Services Performed**

June 4, 12, 22, 23 – Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX) successfully launched batches of 22, 52, 47 and 56 Starlink satellites, respectively, each time using a Falcon 9 launch vehicle and then recovering its first stage. All 22 of the satellites launched on the first of the four missions were second-generation satellites for the Starlink system.

**June 12** – SpaceX successfully performed the **Transporter-8** rideshare mission with a Falcon 9 launch vehicle, orbiting a total of 72 spacecraft, including CubeSats, MicroSats, a reentry capsule and orbital transfer vehicles, and then recovered the launch vehicle's first stage.

June 18 – SpaceX successfully launched the SATRIA-1 high-throughput broadband satellite on a Falcon 9 launch vehicle and then recovered the vehicle's first stage. Manufactured by Thales Alenia Space, the satellite is part of a \$540m project being undertaken by a public-private partnership between the Indonesian government and PT Satelit Nusantara Tiga to deliver Internet connectivity services to users in rural areas.

June 29 – Virgin Galactic Holdings Inc. successfully launched the first commercial suborbital flight of SpaceShipTwo for Italian government customers, reaching an altitude of 85.1 km.

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