

Space Business Review

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

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Contact | Dara A. Panahy, +1 202.835.7521, dpanahy@milbank.com | Bijan Ganji, +1 202.835.7543, bganji@milbank.com

EchoStar Sells Spectrum to SpaceX for \$17b

On September 8, EchoStar Corporation (EchoStar) announced an agreement with Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX) whereby EchoStar will sell to SpaceX its rights to AWS-4 and H-block spectrum for approximately \$17b in cash and stock. Concurrently, EchoStar terminated its contract with MDA Space Ltd. for its planned low Earth orbit satellite constellation.

JetBlue Selects Kuiper for IFC Services

On September 4, JetBlue Airways Corporation announced an agreement with Amazon.com, Inc. to use capacity from the Kuiper system for in-flight connectivity services beginning in 2027.

September Fundraising & Financing Activity

September 9 – Finnish satellite manufacturing start-up ReOrbit Oy raised €45m in a Series A investment round led by Springvest Oyj, with participation from Varma Capital, LLC, ELO Foundation, Icebreaker Fund Management Oy and others.

September 12 – Satellite manufacturer Apex Technology, Inc. (Apex) raised \$200m in a Series D funding round led by Interlagos Capital, with participation from unspecified additional investors. Apex will use the funds to expand its production capacity.

September 12 – French optical ground station start-up Cailabs SAS raised €57m in structured financing, consisting of €37m in financing from the European Investment Bank and €20m in investment from Definvest, NewSpace Capital GP S.A. and others.

September 17 – Satellite start-up **Hubble Network Inc.** raised \$70m in a Series B funding round led by **Ryan Swagar** of **Swagar Capital**, with participation from **Y Combinator**, **LLC** and others.

September 18 – Launch start-up Beijing Interstellar Glory Space Technology Ltd. raised \$98m in a Series D+ investment round led by Chengdu Major Industrialization Project Phase II Equity Investment Fund Co., Ltd., with participation from Chengdu Airport Innovation & Entrepreneurship Investment Co., Ltd. and Chengdu Yingyuan Private Equity Fund Management Co., Ltd.

September 19 – Chinese start-up Zhejiang Spacetime Daoyu Technology Co., Ltd. raised \$281m in new funding from Zhejiang New Energy Vehicle Industry Fund.

September 28 – Chinese launch start-up Beijing Galactic Energy Aerospace Technology Co., Ltd. raised \$336m in a Series D funding round, with participation from the Beijing Commercial Aerospace and Low-altitude Economy Industry Investment Fund, the Nanjing Innovation Investment Group and others.

Viasat and Space42 Agree to Pool MSS Spectrum

On September 15, ViaSat, Inc. and Space42 PLC announced Equatys, a joint venture that will pool roughly 100 MHz of L- and S-band spectrum for direct-to-device services in over 160 markets.

September Mergers & Acquisitions

September 2 – Connectivity provider OrbitsIQ Global SA announced the acquisition of mobility-focused software developer UNIO Enterprise GmbH on undisclosed terms.

September 9 – Commercial space services provider Neo Space Group announced the acquisition of in-flight entertainment provider Display Interactive SAS on undisclosed terms.

September Launch Missions Performed

September 2, 3, 5, 6, 13, 18, 19, 21, 25, 25, 28 – Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX) successfully launched batches of 24, 28, 28, 24, 24, 28, 24, 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.

September 8 – China Rocket Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation, successfully delivered 11 satellites to low Earth orbit for Chinese start-up Zhejiang Spacetime Daoyu Technology Co., Ltd. on a Jielong-3 launch vehicle.

September 11 – SpaceX successfully launched the **Nusantara** Lima communications satellite for **PT Pasifik Satelit Nusantara** using a Falcon 9 launch vehicle and then recovered the launch vehicle's first stage.

September 25 – United Launch Alliance, LLC successfully launched a batch of 27 Kuiper satellites to low Earth orbit for Amazon.com, Inc. on an Atlas 5 launch vehicle, bringing the Kuiper constellation to a total of 129 satellites on-orbit.

September 27 – The China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation launched a batch of Guowang satellites into low Earth orbit using a Long March 6A launch vehicle.

September Launch Services Orders

September 21 – German communications services provider Media Broadcast Satellite GmbH (MBS) selected South Korean launch start-up Innospace Co. Ltd. to perform two missions to deploy MBS satellites using the HANBIT launch vehicle.

September 30 – Satellite operator Synspective Inc. selected Rocket Lab Corporation to perform 10 missions for its satellites using the Electron launch vehicle.

September Satellite Orders

September 4 – Satellite manufacturing start-up AscendArc, Inc. announced that it was selected by KT SAT Co., Ltd. to manufacture a small geostationary satellite on undisclosed terms.

September 10 – Satellite operator Hawkeye 360, Inc. selected SFL Missions Inc. to manufacture nine low Earth orbit satellites.

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