

Space Business Review

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

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July Fundraising Activity

July 13 – HawkEye 360, Inc., which operates a network of radio frequency sensing satellites and provides data analytics services to defense customers, announced that it raised \$58m in a Series D-1 investment round led by funds managed by Blackrock. The company plans to use the funding to develop new space systems and expand its analytics capabilities.

July 24 – Impulse Space, Inc., a California-based start-up with plans to provide in-space transportation and logistics services, announced that it raised \$45m in a Series A investment round led by RTX Ventures, the venture capital arm of RTX Corporation. The company intends to use the funding for development of its Helios in-space transportation vehicle.

July 25 – Italy-based ground segment service provider Leaf Space SpA announced that it raised €20m in a Series B investment round led by CDP Venture Capital Sgr and Neva Sgr. The company, which also announced that it separately received a €15m loan from the European Investment Bank, plans to use the funding to expand its ground station network.

Kleos Space Declares Bankruptcy

On July 26, following the recent voluntary suspension in trading of its listed securities, Kleos Space S.A., a provider of radio-frequency data that operates a constellation of 16 signals-intelligence satellites, announced that it is unable to meet its financial obligations and will file for bankruptcy adjudication in Luxembourg in the coming weeks.

L3 Harris Closes Acquisition of Aerojet Rocketdyne

On July 28, after the U.S. Federal Trade Commission decided not to block the transaction, L3 Harris Technologies, Inc. completed its \$4.7b acquisition of Aerojet Rocketdyne, Inc., a provider of missile propulsion, space power systems and rocket engines, including for the Vulcan Centaur launch vehicle, for which it was contracted by United Launch Alliance (ULA) to provide 116 engines to support ULA's performance of launch missions for Amazon.com, Inc.'s Kuiper constellation.

Amazon Unveils Plans for Satellite Processing Facility

On July 21, Amazon.com, Inc. announced a \$120m investment in a new satellite processing facility at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, where the company will prepare its Kuiper satellites for launch, including by integrating them with bespoke dispensers, after the satellites have been received from its satellite manufacturing facility in Kirkland, Washington.

July Launch Services Performed

July 5 – Arianespace S.A. performed the final Ariane 5 mission, successfully launching two satellites for government customers: the Heinrich-Hertz-Satelit, which was manufactured by OHB System AG for the German space agency and will be used to test new satellite communications technologies, and the Syracuse 4B satellite, which was manufactured by Airbus Defense and Space and Thales Alenia Space for the French defense procurement and technology agency and will provide secured communications services for the French armed forces. The Ariane 5, which debuted in 1996, was used to perform 117 missions and deploy 239 satellites for 65 institutional and commercial customers from 30 countries over a lifetime of longer than 25 years. The vehicle's successor, the Ariane 6, is slated to make its inaugural flight next year.

July 7, 9, 15, 19, 23, 28 – Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX) successfully launched batches of 48, 22, 54, 15, 22 and 22 **Starlink** satellites, respectively, each time using a **Falcon 9** launch vehicle.

July 18 – Rocket Lab, Inc. successfully launched seven satellites—a new demonstration satellite for Lightspeed, Telesat Canada's low-Earth orbit broadband constellation, four cubesats for the National Aeronautics & Space Administration and two satellites for Spire Global, Inc.—on an Electron launch vehicle and then recovered the vehicle's first stage at sea in order to advance its work toward making the vehicle reusable.

July 28 – SpaceX successfully launched the JUPITER 3 satellite, also known as EchoStar XXIV, for Hughes Network Systems, LLC (Hughes) on a Falcon Heavy launch vehicle and then recovered the vehicle's side boosters. Manufactured by Maxar Technologies Inc., JUPITER 3 will double the capacity of the Hughes satellite fleet and support in-flight, maritime and enterprise connectivity, as well as cellular backhaul and residential broadband services, from the 95°W orbital position.

Astranis to Build Broadband Satellite for the Philippines

On July 11, Astranis Space Technologies Corp. entered an agreement with Orbits Corp. and the Government of the Philippines whereby it will provide a satellite dedicated to providing broadband connectivity for the archipelago nation.

Synspective, Rocket Lab Sign Multi-Launch Contract

On July 13, Japanese remote sensing company Synspective Inc. selected Rocket Lab Inc. to perform two dedicated launch missions using the Electron launch vehicle.

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