

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

### **O3b Networks Secures \$1.2b in Funding**

On November 29, **O3b Networks** announced that it has secured its final funding round before service launch by raising a total of \$1.2b from a group of investors and banks. The total funding comprises a \$510m **COFACE**-backed senior debt facility provided by **HSBC, ING, CA-CIB** and **Dexia**; a \$115m senior debt facility and a \$145m mezzanine facility provided by **HSBC Principal Investments, Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), Africa Development Bank, DEG, PROPARGO, FMO, IFC** and **EAIF**; and \$410m in equity financing, of which \$230m is new equity investment. The additional equity is being provided by a group of existing shareholders which includes **Google, North Bridge Venture Partners** and **Allen & Company**, with **SES, Liberty Global** and **HSBC Principal Investments** taking the lead role. New investors include the **DBSA, Sofina** and **Satya Capital**. With this round of funding, **SES** will become the largest minority shareholder of **O3b Networks**.

### **Hughes Secures COFACE Financing**

**Hughes Network Systems, LLC** announced on October 29 the signing of a \$115m loan agreement with **BNP Paribas** and **Société Générale** to finance the launch of **Jupiter**, its next generation, high-throughput, Ka-band satellite. The loan is guaranteed by **COFACE**, the French Export Credit Agency, and **Arianespace** has been contracted by **Hughes** to launch **Jupiter** in the first half of 2012. Terms of the loan include a fixed interest rate of 5.13% and a repayment period of 8.5 years starting after launch.

### **Sea Launch Company Exits Chapter 11**

**Sea Launch Company** announced that it has successfully completed its Chapter 11 reorganization process, effective October 27, 2010. **Energia Overseas Limited (EOL)**, a Russian corporation, acquired a majority ownership of the reorganized **Sea Launch**. The successor entity, **Sea Launch S.a.r.l.**, will be responsible for corporate functions, while **Energia Logistics Ltd.**, a U.S. corporation, will assume management of rocket assembly and satellite integration operations at the existing **Sea Launch Home Port** facilities in Southern California. A Moscow-based **EOL**-affiliate will manage supply chain operations of all CIS-based primary and second-tier suppliers for the **Zenit-3SL** launch system.

### **November Launches**

On November 14, **International Launch Services (ILS)** announced the successful launch of the **SkyTerra 1** satellite for **LightSquared** using a **Proton Breeze M** launcher from the **Baikonur Cosmodrome** in Kazakhstan. Built by **Boeing Space & Intelligence Systems** on its **702HP** platform, **SkyTerra 1** features a 22-meter L-band reflector-based antenna – the largest commercial antenna reflector to be put into service. The satellite will be positioned at the 101.3°WL orbital location and will be among the first to provide integrated terrestrial-satellite services and the first to provide wireless coverage to 100% of the U.S. population via a high-speed 4G-LTE network. On November 26, **Arianespace S.A.** successfully launched the **Intelsat 17** telecommunications satellite for **Intelsat S.A.** and the **HYLAS (Highly Adaptable Satellite) 1** broadband satellite for **Avanti Communications**. The launch was performed using an **Ariane 5 ECA** launcher from the **Guiana Space Center**. **Intelsat 17** was built by **Space Systems/Loral** based on its **1300** platform and is equipped with 28 C-band and 46 Ku-band transponders designed to provide coverage of Europe, Northern Africa, India and the Middle East from the 66°EL orbital location. **HYLAS 1** was designed and built by **EADS Astrium** and will use the latest Ka-band technology to deliver high speed two-way data service across Europe. The satellite has a unique flexible payload which will enable **Avanti** to change the bandwidth of its 8 Ka-band beams while in orbit, thus maximizing the satellite's efficiency. **HYLAS 1** is complemented by a Ku-band broadcast capability.

### **Arianespace to Launch Azerbaijan Satellite**

On November 5, **Arianespace S.A.** announced that it has been selected by the **International Relations and Accounting Center** of the **Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies** of the Republic of Azerbaijan to launch the country's first communications satellite on an **Ariane 5 ECA** launcher from the **Guiana Space Center** by the end of 2012. The satellite will be built by **Orbital Sciences Corporation** using its **STAR-2** platform and will be equipped with 36 active Ku- and C-band transponders to provide a wide range of communications services for all of Azerbaijan, as well as Central Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa.