

# Space Business Review

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

## August 2014

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### GOOGLE CLOSES SKYBOX ACQUISITION

On August 1, **Skybox Imaging, Inc.** (Skybox) and **Google Inc.** (Google) closed their previously announced transaction involving the acquisition by Google of Skybox for \$500m in cash. Google has indicated it initially plans to draw upon Skybox capabilities to support and improve imagery for Google Maps, its digital map service, and that eventually it hopes also to use Skybox to advance disaster relief efforts and to increase Internet access around the world.

### GALILEO DEPLOYMENT SETBACK

On August 23, **Arianespace S.A.** (Arianespace) and the **European Space Agency** announced an injection anomaly in the launch of the **European Commission's** first two fully operational **Galileo** positioning, navigation and timing satellites. The launch, performed by Arianespace on August 22, was thought to have been successful until it became clear that the **Fregat** upper stage of the **Europeanized Soyuz** launch vehicle had injected the satellites into an orbit significantly off target as to both perigee and orbital inclination. On August 25, Arianespace announced that an 8-member board of inquiry will investigate the injection anomaly and determine what effect it will have on the satellites' useful life. The board began its work on August 28 and is scheduled to report its initial findings by September 8. Industry analysts suspect that moving the satellites to their correct orbit will require so much fuel that the satellites either will be unable to make the journey or will be left without sufficient propellant to operate for a significant period of time.

### SPIRE \$25M SERIES A FINANCING

On July 29, remote sensing startup **Spire Inc.** (Spire), formerly known as **Nanosatsfi Inc.**, announced that it raised \$25m in Series A financing, which it will use to expand its satellite fleet, enhance its communications infrastructure and add to its workforce. Spire has already deployed four satellites, including the **Lemur 1** cubesat launched in June on a **Russian-Ukrainian Dnepr** launch vehicle; based on current demand, the company plans to grow its fleet to more than 50 satellites in the near future. Spire provides customers with data to support trade, weather and maritime activities, focusing on remote, underserved areas, over land and sea.

### AUGUST LAUNCHES

**August 5** – **Space Exploration Technologies Corporation** successfully launched the **AsiaSat 8** satellite for **Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited** on a **Falcon 9** launch vehicle. Manufactured by **Space Systems/Loral LLC** based on its **SSL 1300** satellite platform, **AsiaSat 8** is equipped with 24 Ku-band transponders and a Ka-band payload to provide coverage of China, India, the Middle East and Southeast Asia from the 105.5°E orbital location.

**August 13** – **Lockheed Martin Commercial Launch Services, Inc.** successfully launched the **WorldView-3** high-resolution, multi-spectral Earth observation satellite for **DigitalGlobe Inc.** (DigitalGlobe) on a **United Launch Alliance Atlas V** launch vehicle. Manufactured by **Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp.**, **WorldView-3** carries a number of unique, enhanced capabilities, including the ability to provide customers images as sharp as 31cm.

### AUGUST SATELLITE ORDERS

**August 4** – **Space Systems/Loral LLC** announced that it was selected by **Intelsat S.A.** (Intelsat) to manufacture the **Intelsat 36** satellite based on its **SSL 1300** satellite platform. **Intelsat 36** will be equipped with C- and Ku-band payloads. As announced in June, Intelsat has already leased all of the satellite's Ku-band capacity to **MultiChoice Africa (Pty) Ltd.**, Africa's leading pay-TV provider.

**August 11** – **Avanti Communications Group plc.** announced that it selected **Orbital Sciences Corporation** (Orbital) to manufacture the Ka-band **HYLAS 4** broadband communications satellite based on Orbital's new **GEOSTAR-3™** satellite platform. **HYLAS 4** will be equipped with 66 fixed beams positioned over Europe and Africa and 4 steerable beams that can cover Africa or Latin America.

### 2014 SUMMIT FOR SATELLITE FINANCING

As part of the **Euroconsult World Satellite Business Week**, the **2014 Summit for Satellite Financing** will be held from September 8 - 10 at the Westin Hotel in Paris. The Summit will feature senior executive and government speakers in round-table discussions and presentations involving 700 attendees from over 40 countries. **Milbank** is proud to be once again an official partner for this highly regarded industry event.