

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

May Satellite Orders

On May 10, **Thales Alenia Space** announced a contract for the manufacture and delivery of the **APSTAR 7B** satellite for **APT Satellite Company Limited**. Based on Thales' **Spacebus 4000 C2** platform, APSTAR 7B will serve as a back-up for the **APSTAR 7** satellite, currently being built by Thales and designed to provide broadcasting and communications services to the Asia Pacific region and the Middle East/North Africa from the 76.5°EL orbital location following its launch in 2012.

Lockheed Martin Commercial Space Systems announced on May 11 that it has been awarded a contract by the **Vietnam Posts and Telecommunications Group** to build and deliver in-orbit the **VINASAT-2** satellite. Based on the **Lockheed A2100** platform, VINASAT-2 will be equipped with 24 Ku-band communications channels and will provide a variety of communications services to Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Laos from the 131.8°EL orbital location following its anticipated launch in Q2 of 2012. On May 18, **SES WORLD SKIES** announced that it has signed an agreement with **EADS Astrium** for the construction of the **SES-6** satellite using the **Eurostar E3000** platform. Equipped with 38 C-band and 36 Ku-band transponders, SES-6 will provide video broadcasting services for the Americas and the Atlantic Ocean region from the 319.5°EL orbital location, beginning in 2013. On May 27, **Orbital Sciences Corporation** announced the signing of a contract with the **International Relations and Accounting Centre (IR&AC)** of the **Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies** of the Republic of Azerbaijan to build that nation's first national telecommunications satellite, scheduled for launch between July and August 2012. IR&AC also signed an agreement with **MEASAT Satellite Systems Sdn. Bhd.** for the joint development of the 46.0°EL orbital location to host the new satellite.

ABS Acquires Koreasat-3 Satellite

On May 24, **Asia Broadcast Satellite** announced that it has acquired **Koreasat-3**, a **Lockheed Martin A2100** series satellite, from **Korea Telecom**, subject to receipt of regulatory approvals. Launched in 1999 and equipped with 30 Ku-band and 3 Ka-band transponders, the satellite will be renamed **ABS-7** and will serve the Middle East.

Arianespace Launches Two Satellites

On May 21, **Arianespace S.A.** announced the successful launch of two satellites, the **ASTRA 3B** commercial communications satellite for **SES ASTRA** and the **COMSATBw-2** military communications satellite for the **German Ministry of Defense**, on an **Ariane 5 ECA** launcher. Built by **EADS Astrium** based on its **Eurostar 3000M** platform, ASTRA 3B is equipped with 60 Ku-band and 4 Ka-band transponders to provide broadcast services to Europe from the 23.5°EL orbital location.

May Launch Orders

On May 4, **International Launch Services (ILS)** announced that it will launch the **Intelsat 22** satellite for **Intelsat S.A.** on a **Proton** launcher in the first half of 2012. Under construction by **Boeing Space and Intelligence Systems** based on the **Boeing 702MP** platform, Intelsat 22 will be equipped with 24 Ku-band and 48 C-band transponders to provide network services to media customers in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East from the 72°EL orbital location. The Intelsat 22 mission is part of the Intelsat Multi-launch Agreement with ILS which allowed Intelsat the flexibility to substitute the Intelsat 22 satellite for the previously-announced **Intelsat 21** satellite. On May 5, **Arianespace S.A.** announced that it was awarded a contract by **Hughes Network Systems, LLC** (Hughes) to launch its Ka-band, high-throughput **Jupiter** satellite on an **Ariane 5 ECA** launcher in the first half of 2012. Built by **Space Systems/Loral (SS/L)** using its **1300** platform, Jupiter will deliver **HughesNet®** broadband satellite services in North America, building upon the success of the Hughes **SPACEWAY® 3** satellite system. On May 17, Arianespace announced that it has signed a contract with **Intelsat** to launch the **Intelsat 17** satellite on an Ariane 5 ECA launcher at the end of 2010. Built by SS/L, Intelsat 17 is equipped with 24 C-band and 25 Ku-band transponders to provide capacity across Europe, the Middle East, Russia and Asia from the 66°EL orbital location. On May 28, ILS announced a contract for the launch on a **Proton** rocket of two communications satellites, **YAMAL 401** and **YAMAL 402**, for **Gazprom Space Systems** of Russia. The launches are scheduled for 2012-2013. YAMAL 401 is being built by **ISS Reshetnev** with a **Thales Alenia Space** payload, while YAMAL 2 is being built by Thales Alenia Space. Both satellites will provide coverage over the Russian and CIS territory.