

Space Business Review

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

September 2021

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September M&A Transactions

September 14 – **Spire Global, Inc.** announced that it entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Canada-based maritime vessel data provider **exactEarth Ltd.** (exactEarth) for \$103.4m in cash and \$57.8m in stock, reflecting an enterprise value of more than nine times exactEarth's revenue over the last year.

September 14 – BAE Systems plc announced that it agreed to acquire In-Space Missions Ltd., a UK-based developer of satellites and satellite missions, for roughly \$18m, with the strategic objective of developing its own in-house satellite design and manufacturing capabilities.

September 14 – Raytheon Technologies Corporation announced that it will acquire Colorado-based space electronics company **SEAKR Engineering**, Inc. under a definitive agreement, terms of which were not disclosed.

September Fundraising Activity

September 16 – Hyperspectral Earth imaging and analytics company HySpecIQ, LLC announced that it raised more than \$20m in a Series B funding round from an investment by venture capitalist Peter Thiel.

September 22 – Ovzon AB, a Sweden-based provider of mobile satellite broadband services, announced that it raised SEK 238M, or roughly \$27.3m, from the directed issue of approximately 4.7m shares priced at SEK 51 per share.

September 27 – Broadband terminal developer Isotropic Systems, Inc. announced that it raised more than \$37m in a Series B funding round led by Seraphim Space Investment Trust PLC, with participation from AEI HorizonX, Promus Ventures and Firmament Ventures, surpassing the \$100m mark in total capital raised by the company to date.

September SPAC Developments

September 2, 9 – Redwire Corporation completed its merger with Genesis Park Acquisition Corporation, and BlackSky Holdings, Inc. completed its merger with Osprey Technology Acquisition Corp., with shares of each of the newly combined companies now trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

September 16 – Planet Labs Inc. and dMY Technology Group, Inc. IV announced that they expect to raise more than \$250m in PIPE financing in connection with their recently announced merger, including \$50m in additional commitments from Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and Cypress Point Investment Management.

September Launch Services Performed

September 13 – Space Exploration Technologies Corp. successfully performed the first dedicated polar orbit mission for the Starlink constellation, launching 51 satellites, equipped with optical inter-satellite links, on a Falcon 9 launch vehicle and then recovering the launch vehicle's first stage.

September 14 – Arianespace S.A. successfully performed the tenth launch mission for the OneWeb LEO broadband constellation, orbiting 34 satellites for OneWeb Communications Ltd. on a Soyuz launch vehicle and bringing to 322 the total number of OneWeb satellites on-orbit.

September 15 – Space Exploration Technologies Corp. achieved a milestone in commercial human spaceflight with the successful launch of the Inspiration4 mission, sending a crew of four civilians around the Earth in a Crew Dragon spacecraft following launch on a Falcon 9 launch vehicle.

September Launch Services Orders

September 8 – Al Yah Satellite Communications Company PJSC announced that it selected Space Exploration Technologies Corp. to launch the Thuraya 4-NGS satellite, currently being manufactured by Airbus Defence and Space, on a Falcon 9 launch vehicle in the second half of 2023.

September 8 – Rocket Lab Ltd. announced that it was selected by Kinéis to perform five dedicated launch missions using the Electron launch vehicle beginning in 2Q 2023 for the deployment of all 25 satellites in the company's planned Internet-of-Things services constellation.

September 17 – The Government of Turkey announced the selection of Space Exploration Technologies Corp. to launch the Türksat 6A satellite, the first satellite manufactured domestically in Turkey, for Türksat Uydu Haberleşme ve Kablo TV İşletme A.Ş. on a Falcon 9 launch vehicle in 1Q 2023.

September 21 – Rocket Lab Ltd. announced that it was selected by Astroscale Holdings Inc. to launch the Active Debris Removal by Astroscale-Japan (ADRAS-J) spacecraft, which will be used to perform the company's first active debris removal mission, on an Electron launch vehicle in 2023.

September 23 – Astranis Space Technologies Corp. announced that its first commercial satellite will be launched in Spring 2022 by Space Exploration Technologies Corp. on a Falcon Heavy launch vehicle in a direct-inject mission to geostationary orbit rather than as originally planned on a Falcon 9 launch vehicle to geostationary transfer orbit.

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