# Milbank

## **Space Business Review**

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

November 2021

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### November M&A Transactions

**November 8 – Viasat Inc.** (Viasat) announced that it will acquire **Inmarsat plc** for \$850m in cash, 46.36m shares of Viasat valued at \$3.1b and \$3.4b in assumed debt, producing an overall transaction value of more than \$7.3b. The transaction is expected to close in the second half of 2022, subject to regulatory approvals. The combined company will provide services in the broadband, mobility and defense segments, with spectrum rights in the Ka-, L- and S-bands, 19 satellites on-orbit and 10 satellites expected to be deployed over the course of the next three years.

**November 10** – Planet Labs, Inc. (Planet) announced that it will acquire VanderSat, a Netherlands-based provider of advanced data and analytics focused on the Earth's surface conditions, for \$10m in cash and \$18m in shares of Planet. The transaction is expected to close later this year.

November 15 – Rocket Lab USA, Inc. (Rocket Lab) announced that it will purchase Planetary Systems Corporation, a Maryland-based manufacturer of satellite separation systems, in a transaction valued at \$81.4m, based on \$42m in cash and roughly 1.72m shares of Rocket Lab, as well as a financial performance earnout bonus of approximately 956,000 additional shares. The acquisition is expected to close before the end of the year.

#### Telesat Closes Merger, Begins Trading as Public Company

On November 19, following closing of its previously announced merger with Loral Space & Communications Inc., Telesat Corporation began trading as a public company, with shares listed on both the Toronto Stock Exchange and Nasdaq, marking a milestone that the company believes will enhance its ability to secure the remaining \$2b in funding needed for Lightspeed, its planned low Earth orbit satellite constellation that will provide broadband services globally.

#### November Launch Services Performed

**November 13** – Space Exploration Technologies Corp. successfully launched 53 Starlink satellites on a Falcon 9 launch vehicle and then recovered the vehicle's first stage on its Just Read the Instructions drone ship.

**November 18** – Rocket Lab USA Inc. successfully launched two second generation satellites for BlackSky Global LLC on an Electron launch vehicle and conducted its third successful proof of concept mission for recovery of the vehicle's first stage, which will involve capture by helicopter in midair.

#### **November Fundraising Activity**

**November 8** – Radio frequency data analytics company HawkEye 360 Inc. raised \$145m through a Series D round led by Insight Partners and Seraphim Space Investment Trust.

**November 16** – Geospatial data and analytics startup Hydrosat Inc. raised \$10m in seed funding for its planned satellite constellation focused on gathering data for thermal infrared maps from an investor group led by OTB Ventures.

**November 16** – Mynaric AG, a laser communication company that is publicly traded in Germany, raised \$75.9m in gross proceeds from an initial public offering in the United States with the listing of 4.6m American Depositary Shares on Nasdaq.

**November 16** – California-based startup **Inversion Space**, which is developing a return vehicle for space cargo, raised \$10m in a seed funding round led by **Spark Capital**.

**November 17** – Australia's Fleet Space Technologies Pty Ltd raised \$26.4m in a Series B round led by existing investors Artesian Venture Partners, Blackbird Ventures, Grok and Horizons Ventures for its planned IoT satellite constellation.

**November 19** – Sierra Nevada Corp. subsidiary Sierra Space raised \$1.4b in a Series A round led by General Atlantic, Coatue and Moore Strategic Ventures for development of its space vehicles, including Dream Chaser, which will provide cargo and crew transportation services to the ISS.

**November 25** – Space debris removal and satellite servicing business Astroscale Holdings Inc. raised \$109m in a Series F round led by THE FUND Limited Partnership.

**November 30** – Mobility connectivity provider Anuvu received \$50m in new funding commitments from existing investors, including Apollo Capital Management LP, Sound Point Capital and Arbour Lane Capital Management, to support development of its planned constellation of small geostationary satellites.

#### **November Launch Services Orders**

**November 1** – Amazon.com, Inc. (Amazon) announced that it selected ABL Space Systems Company to launch the first two prototype satellites for Project Kuiper, Amazon's planned low Earth orbit constellation for the provision of global broadband, on an RS1 launch vehicle in the fourth quarter of 2022.

**November 17** – Arianespace S.A. announced that it was selected by SingTel Optus Pty Limited to launch the Optus-11 Ku-band communications satellite on the new Ariane 6 launch vehicle in the second half of 2023.

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