

# **Space Business Review**

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

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# Spire Secures \$120m Credit Facility

On June 14, Spire Global, Inc. (Spire) announced that it secured a credit facility of up to \$120m, led by Blue Torch Finance LLC, with a term of four years. \$100m of the financing proceeds was made available to Spire immediately while the balance of the facility was placed in escrow subject to release upon satisfaction of certain conditions, including Spire's achievement of \$96m in annual recurring revenue. Spire plans to use part of the proceeds from the facility to pay off existing indebtedness.

## South Korea Start-up CONTEC Concludes Series C Round

On June 10, South Korean start-up CONTEC announced that it raised approximately \$47.3m in a Series C funding round led by Spring Ventures, with participation from both new and existing investors, adding to a roughly \$10m raised by the company in its two previous funding rounds. CONTEC was spun-off from the Korean Aerospace Research Institute in 2015. It is currently building out a global network of ground stations and aims to deploy a constellation of Earth observation satellites beginning in 2023.

#### June Launch Services Orders

June 22 – Isar Aerospace Technologies GmbH announced that it was selected by D-Orbit S.p.A. (D-Orbit) to launch its ION Satellite Carrier as a primary customer on the Spectrum launch vehicle. D-Orbit separately announced on June 30 that it was selected by Kepler Communications Inc. to deploy two satellites using the ION Satellite Carrier in Q1 2023.

June 30 – Relativity Space, Inc. announced that it was selected by OneWeb Communications Ltd. (OneWeb) to perform multiple launch services over several years for OneWeb's second generation broadband Internet constellation using the Terran R launch vehicle beginning in 2025.

## Viasat Shareholders Approve Inmarsat Acquisition

On June 21, Viasat Inc. announced that its shareholders voted overwhelmingly to approve the company's acquisition of Inmarsat plc in a transaction valued at \$7.3b, consisting of \$850m in cash, \$3.1b in equity and \$3.4b in assumed debt. The acquisition transaction, which was originally announced in November 2021, is expected to close by the end of this year, subject to regulatory approvals.

#### June Launch Services Performed

June 2 – A Long March 2C launch vehicle successfully launched nine test satellites for the planned 240-satellite Geely Future Mobility Constellation, which is being developed for Geely Technology Group Co Ltd (Geely) by its wholly-owned subsidiary Geespace to support Geely's autonomous driving program. The system is expected to be deployed in two phases, starting with a first phase of 72 satellites by 2025.

June 8 – Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX) successfully launched the Nilesat 301 geostationary communications satellite for Nilesat SA on a Falcon 9 launch vehicle. Manufactured by Thales Alenia Space based on its Spacebus 4000-B2 platform, Nilesat 301 will provide broadcast and broadband Internet services to users in the MENA region.

**June 17 –** SpaceX successfully launched 53 **Starlink** satellites on a Falcon 9 launch vehicle and then recovered the vehicle's first stage after what was its 13<sup>th</sup> mission, setting a new highmark for the company in the reuse of its boosters.

**June 19** – SpaceX successfully launched the Globalstar FM15 spare satellite for low-Earth orbit constellation operator Globalstar, Inc. on a Falcon 9 launch vehicle.

June 22 – Arianespace S.A. successfully launched the MEASAT-3d and GSAT-24 satellites for MEASAT Satellite Systems Sdn. Bhd. and NewSpace India Limited, respectively, on an Ariane 5 launch vehicle. MEASAT-3d was manufactured by Airbus Defence and Space and will provide broadband Internet and DTH services throughout Malaysia. GSAT-24 was manufactured by the Indian Space Research Organisation and will provide DTH services to users in India.

**June 29** – SpaceX successfully launched the SES-22 satellite for SES S.A. on a Falcon 9 launch vehicle. Manufactured by Thales Alenia Space based on its Spacebus 4000-B2 platform, SES-22 is the first of several C-band satellites to be deployed by SES S.A. as part of the C-band clearing process administered by the Federal Communications Commission.

#### **NSR Forecasts Revenues for Manufacturing & Launch**

A recently released report from Northern Sky Research forecasts that the satellite manufacturing and launch services market will produce a cumulative total of \$633b in revenues through 2031, driven largely by new constellations, crewed space missions and rising demand for space-based data.

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