

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

October Launch Services

October 6 – **Sea Launch** successfully launched the **Intelsat 18** satellite on a **Zenit-3SLB** launcher with a **Block DM** upper stage from the **Baikonur Cosmodrome** in Kazakhstan. Built by **Orbital Sciences Corporation**, Intelsat 18 is equipped with 24 C- and 12 Ku-band transponders and will replace the **Intelsat 701** satellite at 180°W to provide DTH and other telecommunications services to customers throughout and along the Pacific Ocean from Southeast Asia to the western United States.

October 7 – **China Great Wall Industry Corp.** successfully launched **Eutelsat's W3C** satellite on a **Long March 3B** rocket from the **Xichang Satellite Launch Center** in southwest China's Sichuan Province. Built by **Thales Alenia Space** on the **Spacebus 4000 C3** platform, W3C is equipped with 53 Ku- and 3 Ka-band transponders and will deliver, from its 16°E orbital location, telecommunications services to Europe, the Indian Ocean region and parts of Africa. The launch of W3C was the first Chinese launch for a Western satellite operator in the 12 years since the U.S. government instituted a ban on satellite technology exports to China.

October 21 – **Arianespace** successfully performed the first **Soyuz** launch mission from the **Guiana Space Center** by placing in orbit the first two satellites of the **Galileo** constellation. Built for the **European Space Agency** by a consortium of manufacturers headed by **Astrium GmbH**, the two satellites form part of an 18-satellite constellation, which will serve as Europe's own satellite positioning and navigation system. Arianespace injected both satellites into an immediate circular orbit at a 54.7° inclination.

Astrium Delivers Arabsat-5C in Orbit

On October 26, **EADS Astrium** (Astrium) successfully delivered to **ARABSAT** in orbit the **Arabsat-5C** satellite, which was launched on September 21 by **Arianespace** on an **Ariane 5** launcher. Built on Astrium's **Eurostar E3000** platform, Arabsat-5C is equipped with a hybrid C- and Ka-band communications payload manufactured by **Thales Alenia Space** and will provide a variety of satellite communications services to Africa and the Middle East from its operational orbit at 20°E. Arabsat-5C joins the **Arabsat-5A** and **Arabsat-5B** satellites, launched in 2010, to complete the deployment of ARABSAT's 5th generation commercial satellite fleet.

Azerspace/Africasat-1a Coface Financing

On October 11, **Azercosmos OJSCo** announced the signing of a €59.1m loan facility guaranteed by **Coface**, the French export credit agency, to finance the launch of the **Azerspace/Africasat-1a** satellite by **Arianespace** on an **Ariane 5** launcher by the end of 2012. The loan facility, arranged by **Société Générale CIB** and **Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation**, has a ten-year maturity and is being guaranteed by the **Ministry of Finance of Azerbaijan**. The satellite, being manufactured by **Orbital Sciences** based on its **STAR-2** platform, will be equipped with a hybrid C- and Ku-band payload with 36 active transponders to provide communications services to Azerbaijan, Central Asia, Europe and Africa from 46°E through an arrangement with **Measat** of Malaysia, which holds the rights to the orbital slot and the Africasat-1a portion of the satellite's payload.

Greenhill & Co. to Sell Stake in Iridium

On October 4, **Greenhill & Co. Inc.** (Greenhill), a shareholder of **Iridium Communications** (Iridium), announced that it will be selling all of its 9.8m shares of Iridium stock to fund the repurchase of Greenhill's own common stock. Greenhill will effect the sale of its stake in Iridium by means of a 10b5-1 sales plan, pursuant to which Greenhill will sell automatically, on a daily basis, small amounts of its stake in Iridium over the course of approximately two years. Greenhill's eventual sale of its Iridium shares was contemplated from the time of Greenhill's investment in Iridium in 2009. The sale by Greenhill of its shares will not affect Iridium's \$1.8b **Coface**-guaranteed bank financing, which Iridium is using to fund the construction of **NEXT**, its second-generation constellation of 66 LEO satellites expected to be launched beginning in 2015.

October Launch Services Orders

On October 31, **SingTel Optus** announced the selection of **Arianespace** to launch the **Optus 10** satellite on an **Ariane 5** launcher from the **Guiana Space Center** in mid-2013. Currently under construction by **Space Systems/Loral** on its **1300** platform, Optus 10 will be equipped with 24 Ku-band transponders and will provide direct TV broadcast, internet connectivity, data transmission and telephony services to customers in Australia and New Zealand.