

Space Business Review

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

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S7 AGREES TO ACQUIRE SEA LAUNCH

On September 27, **CJSC S7 Group (S7)**, Russia's largest private aviation holding company, signed an agreement to acquire the assets of **Sea Launch AG (Sea Launch)**, including its **Sea Launch Commander** and **Odyssey** vessels, from **AO S. P. Korolev Rocket and Space Corporation Energia** for approximately \$150m. S7 hopes to position Sea Launch to resume performance of launch services using the **Zenit-3SL** launch vehicle by late 2018. The acquisition remains subject to government regulatory approvals in several countries, including the United States and Russia.

INMARSAT ISSUES >\$1B IN BONDS

On August 31, **Inmarsat plc (Inmarsat)** closed a \$650m offering of 3.875% convertible notes due 2023, the net proceeds of which will be applied, in part, to fund the \$390m repurchase of its \$287.7m outstanding 1.75% convertible notes due 2017. On September 22, Inmarsat, through wholly-owned subsidiary **Inmarsat Finance plc**, closed a \$400m offering of 6.5% senior notes due 2024, the net proceeds of which will be used, in part, to repay the remaining \$107m due under a 2010 loan from **EIB** for **Alphasat**, an L-band satellite shared by Inmarsat and the **European Space Agency** and manufactured under a public-private partnership with **Thales Alenia Space** and **Airbus Defence and Space**.

SEPTEMBER SATELLITE ORDERS

September 12 – **Boeing Satellite Systems International, Inc.** announced that it was selected by **Global IP Cayman (Global IP)**, a recently established satellite operator, to manufacture the **GiSAT** satellite based on the **702** satellite platform. GiSAT will feature a new digital payload that affords increased capacity and the ability to reconfigure the satellite's on-board processor, enabling higher data rates and greater flexibility for Global IP's customers.

September 12 – **SES S.A. (SES)** announced that it selected **Thales Alenia Space (Thales)** to manufacture the **SES-17** satellite based on an all-electric version of the **NEO** satellite platform. Expected to be launched in 2020, SES-17 will provide aeronautical connectivity and other mobility services to users across the Americas and the Atlantic Ocean. In a related development, SES and Thales announced that they are partnering to develop a Ka-band HTS in-flight connectivity service called **FlytLIVE**, which is planned to debut in 2017.

AMOS-6 LOST IN FALCON 9 EXPLOSION

On September 1, a **Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX) Falcon 9** launch vehicle exploded on the launch pad at **Cape Canaveral Air Force Station** during fueling for a standard static fire test, resulting in destruction of the Falcon 9 and its payload, the **AMOS-6** satellite, which was scheduled to be launched for **Space-Communication Ltd. (Spacecom)** on September 3. Preliminary investigation findings identified a large breach in the cryogenic helium system of the second stage liquid oxygen tank. Spacecom stated that it is entitled to receive either \$50m or replacement launch services from SpaceX, along with approximately \$200m in insurance proceeds from **Israel Aerospace Industries Ltd.**, the manufacturer of AMOS-6.

ARIANESPACE TWO-SATELLITE LAUNCH

On September 15, **Arianespace S.A.** successfully launched the **PerúSAT-1** satellite for **CONIDA**, the Peruvian space agency, and the **SkySat-4, -5, -6 and -7** micro-satellites for **Terra Bella**, a **Google** company, using the **Vega** launch vehicle in its first fully commercial mission. PerúSAT-1 was manufactured by **Airbus Defence and Space** based on the **AstroBus-S** satellite platform and is Peru's first Earth observation satellite. The SkySat satellites were designed by **Terra Bella** and manufactured by **Space Systems Loral** and will enable sub-meter 3D mapping of the Earth.

SEPTEMBER LAUNCH SERVICES ORDERS

August 30 – **SES S.A.** and **Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX)** announced that they reached an agreement to launch the **SES-10** satellite on the first commercial previously-flown **Falcon 9** mission, in Q4 2016. Manufactured by **Airbus Defence and Space** based on its **E3000** satellite platform, SES 10-will provide DTH broadcasting, enterprise and mobility services to customers in Latin America from the 67°W orbital position.

September 13 – **The Indian Space Research Organisation** announced that it selected **Arianespace S.A.** to launch the **GSAT-11** satellite on an **Ariane 5** launch vehicle in 2017. GSAT-11 will provide communications services to the Indian subcontinent and nearby islands.

September 13 – **Virgin Galactic, LLC** announced that it was selected by **Sky and Space Global (UK) Ltd (SSG)** to perform four dedicated **LauncherOne** launch services beginning in 2018 to launch up to 200 nano-satellites for SSG's first generation constellation.