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REC ACQUIRES CONTROL OF HISPASAT

On February 12, **Abertis Infraestructuras, S.A.** (Abertis) announced that, through its subsidiary **Abertis Telecom Satélites, S.A.**, it entered into an agreement with Spanish power company **Red Eléctrica Corporación** (REC) pursuant to which REC, through its subsidiary **Red Eléctrica Telecomunicaciones Systems**, will purchase the entirety of Abertis' roughly 89.7% ownership interest in **Hispasat, S.A.** (Hispasat) for approximately \$1.08b. Abertis stated that its divestment from Hispasat is consistent with its strategic objective to focus exclusively on the operation of toll roads. The transaction, which REC is funding with debt, remains subject to regulatory approvals and is not expected to close until the second quarter of 2019, at the earliest.

FEBRUARY INVESTMENT ROUND-UP

February 18 – The **UK Space Agency** announced that it awarded £18m of agency funding to **OneWeb** through the **European Space Agency** (ESA). The award resulted from the UK's leading investment in ARTES, ESA's telecommunications research program. OneWeb will use the funding for development of its next generation satellite constellation and, in particular, to develop technologies for satellite payloads, ground connections and space debris removal. OneWeb will also use the funding to develop automation techniques and artificial intelligence for constellation management and interaction with terrestrial networks in furtherance of global 5G connectivity.

February 20 – **Sky and Space Global Ltd.** announced that it received signed binding commitments for roughly \$8.5m in a two-tranche share placement to investors as part of its effort to raise 15m Australian dollars, which it plans to use toward deployment of its **Pearls** constellation of 200 nanosatellites that will provide affordable voice, data, instant messaging, Machine-to-Machine and Internet-of-Things communications services to the equatorial belt.

BRIDGESAT TEAMS UP WITH ES'HAILSAT

On February 19, **BridgeSat, Inc.** (BridgeSat) and **Qatar Satellite Company** (Es'hailSat) announced a strategic relationship to provide business and government users across the Middle East affordable access to laser-based satellite broadband services, as part of which BridgeSat will build its first optical ground station for the Middle East at Es'hailSat's new satellite operations center in Doha, Qatar.

FEBRUARY LAUNCH SERVICES

February 5 – **Arianespace S.A.** successfully launched the **Saudi Geostationary Satellite 1/Hellas Sat 4** comsat for the **Arab Satellite Communications Organization** (Arabsat) and the **GSAT-31** satellite for the **Indian Space Research Organisation** (ISRO) on an **Ariane 5** launch vehicle. Saudi Geostationary Satellite 1/Hellas Sat 4 was manufactured by **Lockheed Martin Corporation** as the first commercial satellite to use the modernized **LM2100** satellite platform; it features payloads for both **King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology** and Arabsat subsidiary **Hellas Sat Consortium Ltd.** and will provide video, maritime connectivity, cellular backhaul, corporate networks and government services from 39°E. GSAT-31 was manufactured by ISRO and will provide TV broadcasting, cellular backhaul and VSAT services across the Indian subcontinent.

February 21 – **Space Exploration Technologies Corp.** (SpaceX) successfully launched **PT Pasifik Satelit Nusantara's Nusantara Satu** satellite, Indonesia's first high-throughput satellite, on a flight-proven **Falcon 9** launch vehicle. Manufactured by **SSL**, Nusantara Satu will provide voice and data communications and video distribution services throughout South East Asia. Following stage separation, SpaceX successfully recovered the Falcon 9's first stage on the **Of Course I Still Love You** drone ship.

February 21 – A Russian **Soyuz** launch vehicle launched the **EgyptSat-A** Earth observation satellite for Egypt's **National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences**. The satellite was manufactured by **PAO RSC Energia** based on its **559GK** satellite platform.

February 27 – **Arianespace S.A.** successfully launched the first six – or "Pilot" – satellites for the **OneWeb** system on a **Soyuz** launch vehicle. The mission marks the beginning of both the largest-ever satellite launch campaign and the deployment by OneWeb of its planned low Earth orbit constellation of over 650 satellites, which will provide high data throughput, low-latency, global coverage for the provision of broadband Internet services to a variety of markets. Through a monthly launch program orbiting more than 30 satellites per launch vehicle, OneWeb expects to commence full global commercial service by 2021. **Airbus OneWeb Satellites LLC**, a 50-50 joint venture between **Airbus Defence and Space SAS** and OneWeb, is the manufacturer of all the constellation's satellites.

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