Milbank

Space Business Review

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

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June Fundraising & Investment Activity

June 3 – Stratospheric-platform start-up AALTO HAPS Ltd. raised \$100m in equity funding through an investment by HAPS Japan Corporation.

June 6 – China-based launch services start-up Beijing Tianbing Technology Co., Ltd. raised \$207m in a Series C+funding round.

June 12 – Satellite manufacturing start-up Apex Technology, Inc. raised \$95m in a Series B funding round.

June 20 – ISAR Aerospace SE, a Germany-based launch services start-up, raised \$70m in a Series C+ round.

June 20 – Satellite component manufacturer CesiumAstro, Inc. raised \$65m in a Series B+ funding round.

June 21 – Synthetic aperture radar satellite operator **Synspective Inc.** raised \$44.1m in a Series C funding round.

SES Secures Financing for Intelsat Acquisition

On June 19, SES S.A. announced that it secured a \$3b financing package to fund its acquisition of Intelsat US LLC.

Gilat to Acquire Stellar Blu

On June 17, Gilat Satellite Networks Ltd. announced that it is acquiring Stellar Blu Solutions LLC, a provider of in-flight connectivity terminals, for \$245m.

Astroscale Completes Initial Public Offering

On June 5, Astroscale Holdings Inc. made its initial public offering of shares on the Tokyo Stock Exchange, with its shares trading up to 86% above the initial price of 850 yen.

June Launch Services Orders

June 5 – Firefly Aerospace Inc. announced that it signed an agreement with Lockheed Martin Corporation for up to twenty-five launch reservations using the Alpha launch vehicle.

June 17 – Synspective Inc. announced that it signed a contract with Rocket Lab USA, Inc. for ten launches of its StriX satellites using the Electron launch vehicle.

June 28 – European meteorological satellite organization EUMETSAT announced that it selected Space Exploration Technologies Corp. to perform the 2025 launch of its Meteosat Third Generation-Sounder 1 satellite using a Falcon 9 launch vehicle, a change from previous plans to launch on an Arianespace, Inc. Ariane 6 launch vehicle.

June Launch Missions Performed

June 4, 7, 8, 18, 23, 23, 27 – Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX) successfully launched batches of 20, 22, 20, 20, 22, 20 and 23 Starlink satellites, including a total of 52 direct-to-device satellites, each time using a Falcon 9 launch vehicle and recovering the vehicle's first stage.

June 5 – United Launch Alliance successfully launched the CST-100 Starliner crewed spacecraft for The Boeing Company and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration using an Atlas V launch vehicle.

June 6 – SpaceX performed the fourth test flight of the **Starship** launch vehicle, successfully demonstrating return capabilities of the **Super Heavy** booster and upper stage.

June 19 – Rocket Lab USA, Inc. successfully launched five Internet-of-Things satellites for French satellite operator Kinéis on an Electron launch vehicle, marking the vehicle's 50th launch.

June 20 – SpaceX successfully launched the ASTRA 1P broadcast satellite for SES S.A. on a Falcon 9 launch vehicle and subsequently recovered the vehicle's first stage.

June 25 – SpaceX successfully launched the GOES-U weather satellite for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on a Falcon Heavy launch vehicle and then recovered the vehicle's side boosters.

June Commercial Satellite Orders

June 10 – Al Yah Satellite Communications Company PJSC selected Airbus Defense and Space to manufacture the Al Yah 4 and Al Yah 5 low-Earth orbit satellites.

June 13 – Germany-based space debris monitoring start-up **Vyoma Gmbh** selected **Aerospacelab S.A.** to manufacture its second space situational awareness satellite.

Starfish Space Signs First Commercial Customer

On June 26, Starfish Space Inc. announced that it entered an agreement with Intelsat US LLC to provide mission extension services for a geostationary satellite beginning in 2026.

Thales, Spire, ESSP to Develop ADS-B Satellite System

On June 13, Thales Group, Spire Global, Inc. and the European Satellite Services Provider announced that they will jointly develop a 100-satellite constellation for monitoring air traffic, with commercial services planned to start in 2027.

To learn about Milbank's Space Business Practice, or view previous issues of the Space Business Review, please visit www.milbank.com.

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