

# **Space Business Review**

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

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## March Fundraising & Investment Activity

March 10 – Chinese launch start-up Jiangsu Deep Blue Aerospace Technology Co., Ltd. secured nearly \$69m in funding in a Series B4 investment round led by Tai'an Yuanwang New Energy Industry Investment Fund.

**March 10** – SES S.A. made an investment of an undisclosed amount in Lynk Global, Inc. through participation in the company's Series B funding round.

March 14 – Chinese launch start-up Beijing Interstellar Glory Space Technology Ltd. (iSpace) raised several hundred million yuan in a Series D round led by Sichuan Tianfu Xinyun Digital Economy Development Fund Co., Ltd.

March 18 – Pangea Aerospace, S.L. raised €23m in Series A investment round led by Hyperion Asset Management Limited.

March 25 – The Government of Spain invested \$15m in Satelio IOT Services, S.L. through participation in the company's Series B funding round.

# March M&A Round-up

March 5 – Fleet Space Technologies Pty Ltd acquired HiSeis Pty Ltd, an Australian seismic exploration technology company. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

March 11 – Rocket Lab USA, Inc. (Rocket Lab) announced that it entered into an agreement to acquire Mynaric AG, a leading provider of laser optical communications terminals. The terms of the transaction reflect an expected initial price of \$75m in cash or Rocket Lab common stock, with the potential for earn-out payments of an additional \$75m in Rocket Lab common stock.

## **March Partnerships**

March 11 – Space42 PLC and Viasat, Inc. signed a memorandum of understanding to explore partnership options for the development of a 5G non-terrestrial network.

March 19 – Exploration Laboratories LLC and Antares Nuclear Inc. announced that they entered into a strategic partnership to develop jointly the first commercial nuclear-powered spacecraft for deep-space applications.

# NASA Astronauts Return to Earth

On March 18, Space Exploration Technologies Corp. successfully returned NASA astronauts Suni Williams and Butch Wilmore to Earth as part of the Crew-9 mission using a Crew Dragon spacecraft.

# **Firefly Moon Landing**

On March 2, Firefly Aerospace Inc. achieved the first fully successful commercial Moon landing with its Blue Ghost 1 mission and subsequently conducted 14 days of surface operations.

#### **March Launch Missions Performed**

March 2, 12, 15, 18, 26, 31 – Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX) successfully launched batches of 21, 21, 23, 23, 27 and 28 Starlink satellites, respectively, including a total of 52 direct-to-device satellites, each time using a Falcon 9 launch vehicle and recovering the vehicle's first stage.

March 6 – SpaceX conducted the Starship Flight 8 mission, completing initial ascent and recovery of its Super Heavy booster but losing the upper stage prior to engine cut-off.

March 14 – Rocket Lab USA, Inc. (Rocket Lab) successfully launched a synthetic aperture radar (SAR) satellite for Japan's Institute for Q-shu Pioneers of Space, Inc. (Q-shu), completing the first of eight such missions contracted by Q-shu.

March 15 – SpaceX successfully delivered 74 payloads to low Earth orbit, including an orbital transfer vehicle (OTV) for D-Orbit SPA, 4 SAR satellites for Iceye Oy, and the W-3 reusable capsule for Varda Space Industries, Inc., as part of its Transporter-13 mission using the Falcon 9 launch vehicle.

March 17 – Galactic Energy (Beijing) Space Technology Co., Ltd. successfully launched eight satellites into sun-synchronous orbit using its Ceres-1 launch vehicle.

**March 17** – Rocket Lab successfully launched five Internet-of-Things satellites for **Kinéis**, completing the company's 25-satellite low Earth orbit constellation.

March 31 – Isar Aerospace SE performed a test launch of its Spectrum launch vehicle from the Andøya Spaceport, marking the first ever commercial launch to be attempted from continental Europe. The launch vehicle flew for 30 seconds after a successful liftoff but was then terminated. The reason is not yet known.

# **March Satellite Orders**

March 2 – Maxar Space Systems announced that it was selected by an unidentified customer to manufacture a geostationary communications satellite based on its Maxar 1300 platform.

March 10 – SWISSto12 SA announced that it was selected by Astrum Mobile Pte. Ltd. to manufacture the NEASTAR-1 geostationary satellite, which will provide direct-to-device connectivity services for the Asia-Pacific region.

March 10 – SKY Perfect JSAT Inc. selected Thales Alenia Space to build the JSAT-32 geostationary communications satellite.

# Exotrail and MaiaSpace Sign Multi-Launch Agreement

On March 20, Exotrail SA (Exotrail) announced that it signed a multi-launch agreement with MaiaSpace SAS (MaiaSpace), a subsidiary of ArianeGroup SAS, whereby MaiaSpace will perform multiple launch missions to orbit Exotrail's SpaceVan orbital transfer vehicle, starting in 2027, using the reusable Maia launch vehicle, which is currently in development.

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