Milbank

Space Business Review

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

January 2022

Contact | Dara A. Panahy, +1 202.835.7521, dpanahy@milbank.com | Bijan Ganji, +1 202.835.7543, bganji@milbank.com

January Investment Activity

January 6 – HawkEye 360, Inc. received a \$5m investment from Leidos, Inc., increasing to \$150m the total raised through its previously announced Series D funding round.

January 11 – Mangata Networks, Inc. raised \$33m through its Series A funding round led by Playground Global, with participation from Scottish Enterprise, Promus Ventures and Meta Venture Partners, as well as investors KT Sat Co., Ltd. and Temasek Holdings Limited.

January 14 – Infostellar Inc. received an additional \$4.32m in funding from existing shareholder Mitsubishi UFJ Capital Co., Ltd. and several new investors, raising to \$10.36m the total funding raised from its previously announced Series B round.

January 18 – Satellogic Inc. (Satellogic) received a \$150m investment from Liberty Strategic Capital (Liberty), a private equity firm founded and managed by former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin, in connection with the company's SPAC deal and related PIPE transaction, which together produced a total of \$262m in funding for Satellogic. Through the investment, Liberty will receive 20m Class A ordinary shares of Satellogic at \$7.50 per share, as well as 5m warrants with a strike price of \$10 per share and 15m warrants with a strike price of \$15 per share, and Mnuchin will join the company's board of directors as non-executive chairman.

January 19 – Radian Aerospace, a startup working to develop a single-stage-to-orbit reusable spaceplane named Radian One, raised \$27.5m through a seed funding round led by Fine Structure Ventures, with participation from EXOR, The Venture Collective, Helios Capital, SpaceFund, Gaingels, The Private Shares Fund, Explorer 1 Fund and Type One Ventures.

SPAC Trend Continues in the New Year

January 26 – Shares of **Satellogic Inc**. began trading on **Nasdaq** after the company closed its previously announced merger with **CF Acquisition Corp**. V on January 25.

January 27 – D-Orbit S.p.A. announced that it will merge with Breeze Holdings Acquisition Corp. in a deal reflecting a \$1.28b valuation. Upon closing in Q2 or Q3 this year, shares of the combined company will be traded on Nasdag.

Hughes and Bharti Announce Indian Broadband JV

On January 4, Hughes Network Systems, LLC and Bharti Airtel Ltd. formed Hughes Communications India Pvt Ltd for the provision of satellite broadband services in India.

January Launch Services Performed

January 6 – Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX) successfully launched 49 Starlink satellites on a Falcon 9 launch vehicle and then recovered the vehicle's first stage.

January 13 – Virgin Orbit, LLC successfully launched seven cubesats for the U.S. Department of Defense, SatRevolution S.A. and Spire Global, Inc. to low Earth orbit using its Cosmic Girl carrier aircraft and the LauncherOne launch vehicle.

January 13 – SpaceX successfully performed the Transporter-3 mission, the third in its dedicated rideshare program, orbiting 105 small satellites, including 44 SuperDove satellites for Planet Labs PBC, as well as satellites for Spire Global, Inc., Kepler Communications Inc., Capella Space, Iceye Oy and Umbra Space, using a Falcon 9 launch vehicle.

January 18 – SpaceX successfully launched another 49 satellites for its Starlink system using the Falcon 9 launch vehicle and then recovered the vehicle's first stage.

January Satellite and Launch Services Orders

January 12 – Intelsat S.A. selected Thales Alenia Space to manufacture the Intelsat 41 and Intelsat 44 satellites, each based on the Thales Space Inspire software-defined product line, for the provision of connectivity services across Africa, Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

January 14 – Loft Orbital Solutions Inc. (Loft Orbital) selected Airbus Defence and Space (Airbus) to supply more than 15 satellite platforms based on the Airbus Arrow platform, which is used for the OneWeb system. In a related development, EarthDaily Analytics Corp. announced on January 18 that it selected Loft Orbital to manufacture, deploy and operate a constellation of 10 Earth observation satellites using the satellite platforms ordered from Airbus by Loft Orbital.

January 26 – The Sultanate of Oman announced that it entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for its first deep space mission, which will feature a cubesat that will be supplied by SatRevolution S.A. and launched in 2022 by Virgin Orbit, LLC. The MoU also provides for collaboration on the deployment of small satellites to low Earth orbit.

Blue Origin to Acquire Honeybee Robotics

On January 25, Honeybee Robotics, Ltd., a developer of advanced robotic systems for space applications and other extreme environments, announced that it will be acquired by Blue Origin, LLC. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

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