

Amazon Announces Historic Launch Procurement

On April 5, [Amazon.com, Inc.](#) (Amazon) announced that it selected [Arianespace S.A.](#), [Blue Origin, LLC](#) and [United Launch Alliance, LLC](#) (ULA), under separate contracts, to provide launch services using the [Ariane 6](#), [New Glenn](#) and [Vulcan Centaur](#) launch vehicles, respectively, for [Project Kuiper](#), Amazon's planned 3,236-satellite low Earth orbit constellation, which will provide broadband Internet services globally. Together, the contracts cover a total of up to 83 launch missions, with a baseline of 38 Vulcan, 18 Ariane 6 and 12 New Glenn launch missions, for an unspecified number of satellites over a period of five years. This represents the largest-ever commercial procurement of launch services. Amazon previously announced that it selected [ABL Space Systems Company](#) to launch two Kuiper prototype satellites using the [RS1](#) launch vehicle and ULA to perform nine launch missions for Kuiper using the [Atlas V](#) launch vehicle.

Avanti Cuts \$550m of Debt Through Equity Swap

On April 13, [Avanti Communications Group plc](#) (Avanti) announced that it reduced its outstanding debt from \$810m to \$260m after reaching an agreement with investors to exchange debt for equity in the company. As a result, [Solus Alternative Asset Management](#) and [HPS Investment Partners](#) have become Avanti's largest shareholders.

April Strategic Collaborations

April 11 – [Axiom Space, Inc.](#) (Axiom) and [Mitsui & Co., Ltd.](#), which invested in Axiom last year, announced the establishment of a joint venture in Japan that will offer on-orbit services for both commercial and government customers, including relating to human spaceflight, research, manufacturing and other opportunities at the [International Space Station](#) and at [Axiom Station](#), Axiom's own space station currently under construction, with staged deployment beginning in 2024.

April 26 – [SKY Perfect JSAT Corporation](#) and [Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation](#) announced [Space Compass Corporation](#), a joint venture that will offer an optical data relay service using an integrated space computing network. The network will feature a geostationary satellite for high-speed data transmission, observation satellites for data collection and high-altitude platform stations for low-latency, with the aim of supporting communications for disaster relief efforts involving ships and aircraft and in remote areas.

Capella Closes \$97m Series C Investment Round

On April 25, [Capella Space Corp.](#), which operates a constellation of seven synthetic aperture radar imaging satellites, announced that it raised \$97m in its Series C financing round led by [NightDragon](#), with participation from existing investors [DCVC](#) and [Cota Capital](#), bringing to \$179m the total funding raised by the company to date.

April Launch Services Performed

April 1 – [Space Exploration Technologies Corp.](#) (SpaceX) performed [Transporter-4](#), the fourth mission for its dedicated smallsat rideshare program, using a [Falcon 9](#) launch vehicle to orbit 40 small spacecraft and then recovering the vehicle's first stage on the [Just Read the Instructions](#) droneship.

April 8 – SpaceX successfully performed [Axiom Mission 1](#) for [Axiom Space, Inc.](#), transporting four private astronauts to the [International Space Station](#) (ISS) on a [Falcon 9](#) launch vehicle with the [Dragon](#) spacecraft, marking the first all-private crew mission to the ISS. The crew members returned safely on April 25, splashing down off the coast of Florida.

April 21, 29 – SpaceX successfully launched two batches of 53 [Starlink](#) satellites, each time on a [Falcon 9](#) launch vehicle.

April 29 – A [Long March 2C](#) launch vehicle launched the [Siwei-01](#) and [-02](#) commercial remote sensing satellites for [China Siwei Surveying and Mapping Technology Co., Ltd.](#)

Maxar Makes Strategic Investment in Blackshark.ai

On April 20, [Maxar Technologies Inc.](#) announced a strategic investment in [Blackshark.ai](#), a geospatial data management company, strengthening its 3D Earth intelligence offerings.

April Launch Services Orders

April 5 – [Astranis Space Technologies Corp.](#) announced that it selected [Space Exploration Technologies Corp.](#) to launch four of its [MicroGEO](#) satellites on a dedicated launch mission using the [Falcon 9](#) launch vehicle in 2023.

April 19 – [Rocket Lab USA Inc.](#) announced that it was selected by [HawkEye 360 Inc.](#) to perform three launches using the [Electron](#) launch vehicle, beginning with a rideshare mission as early as December 2022 followed by two dedicated missions, to orbit a total of 15 satellites by 2024.

April 20 – [OneWeb Communications Ltd.](#) announced that it selected the [Indian Space Research Organisation](#) to perform a launch mission for its LEO broadband constellation in 2022.

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