

Apple and Globalstar Announce Satellite-Enabled Service

On September 7, **Apple Inc.** announced that its new **iPhone 14** will feature custom-built components and specific software to offer a satellite-enabled emergency messaging service supported by **Globalstar, Inc.** (Globalstar), whereby the mobile phones will be able to connect directly to the Globalstar satellite communications network when outside the coverage of cellular networks. Globalstar stated that 85% of its network capacity will be dedicated to support this service as a priority.

September Fundraising Activity

September 1 – **OQ Technology**, a start-up with plans to develop a global 5G Internet of Things satellite constellation focused on serving enterprise customers in the oil & gas industry, announced that it raised €13m in a Series A investment round led by **Wa'ed Ventures**, the venture capital arm of **Saudi Arabian Oil Company**, and **Phaistos Investment Fund**, which is managed by **5G Ventures**.

September 2 – India-based launch services start-up **Skyroot Aerospace Pvt Ltd** announced that it concluded a \$51m Series B funding round led by **GIC India Direct Investment Group**.

September 7 – Earth observation company **Albedo Space Corp.** announced that it raised \$48m in a Series A investment round co-led by **Breakthrough Energy Ventures** and **Shield Capital**, bringing to \$58m its total funding raised to date.

September 7 – China's **GalaxySpace**, a private satellite Internet start-up, announced that it raised new funding in an investment round that takes its value to \$1.58b.

September 14 – **Morpheus Space Inc.**, a start-up developing electric propulsion systems for small satellites, concluded a \$28m Series A funding round led by **Alpine Space Ventures**.

September 20 – California-based **SpinLaunch Inc.** announced that it closed a \$71m Series B funding round led by **ATW Partners**. The company, which is developing a ground-based kinetic launch system, has raised a total of \$150m to date.

September 22 – **Somewear Labs, Inc.**, which offers a satellite-enabled platform for the provision of remote communications services, announced that it raised \$13.7m in a Series A funding round led by a group of current and former CEOs.

September 26 – **PlanetWatchers Ltd.**, a provider of synthetic aperture radar crop monitoring services, announced that it raised \$11m in series A funding co-led by **Seraphim Space Investment Trust plc** and **Creative Ventures**.

September Launch Services Performed

September 7 – **Arianespace S.A.** successfully launched the **KONNECT VHTS** satellite for **Eutelsat S.A.** on an **Ariane 5** launch vehicle. Manufactured by **Thales Alenia Space**, the satellite will provide broadband Internet services to Europe.

September 15 – **Rocket Lab USA, Inc.** successfully launched the **StriX-1** satellite for **Synspective Inc.** on an **Electron** launch vehicle. The satellite is the third to be orbited for a planned 30-satellite synthetic aperture radar constellation.

September 4, 10, 18, 24 – **Space Exploration Technologies Corp.** successfully launched batches of 51, 34, 54 and 52 **Starlink** satellites and certain co-passengers, each time using the **Falcon 9** launch vehicle and then recovering its first stage. The September 4 mission included the **Sherpa-LTC** orbital transfer vehicle for **Spaceflight Inc.**; the September 10 mission included the **BlueWalker 3** test satellite for **AST SpaceMobile, Inc.**'s planned cellular direct-to-satellite connectivity system.

Intuitive Machines to Go Public Via SPAC Deal

On September 16, **Intuitive Machines LLC** announced that it will merge with special purpose acquisition company **Inflection Point Acquisition Corp.** in deal that values it at over \$1b and, upon closing, will result in listing on the **Nasdaq** exchange. The company, which is developing a series of lunar landers and a satellite communications network for the moon, has been awarded contracts by the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration** under the **Commercial Lunar Payload Services** program, with a first mission slated for launch in 2023.

September Satellite Orders

September 12 – **KT SAT Corporation Ltd.** selected **Thales Alenia Space** to manufacture the **KOREASAT 6A** satellite based on the **Spacebus 4000B2** satellite platform.

September 15 – **SATLANTIS** selected **OHB Sweden AB** to manufacture two microsatellites based on the **InnoSat** platform.

SpaceX Receives Several Commercial Launch Orders

On September 8, **Iridium Communications Inc.** selected **Space Exploration Technologies Corp.** (SpaceX) to launch up to five ground spares for its **Iridium NEXT** system on a 2023 rideshare mission using the **Falcon 9** launch vehicle; on September 21, **Arab Satellite Communications Organization** selected SpaceX to launch the **Arabsat 7A** satellite on a Falcon 9; and on September 22, **Global Satellite Vu Ltd.** selected SpaceX to launch its second satellite on a Falcon 9 in early 2024.

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