

# Space Business Review

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

## January 2018

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### URTHECAST \$175M INVESTMENT

On December 29, **UrtheCast Corp.** (UrtheCast) announced that it entered into an agreement with an institutional investor for a \$175m investment toward development of the company's **UrtheDaily™** constellation of multispectral Earth imaging satellites. The company already has in place a contract for the manufacture of the constellation, as well as customer contracts for data subscriptions totaling more than \$79.9m. UrtheCast is targeting 2020 for the commencement of UrtheDaily™ operations.

### ORBCOMM SECURES \$25M REVOLVER

On January 2, **ORBCOMM Inc.** secured a \$25m revolving credit facility with JPMorgan Chase Bank serving as administrative and collateral agent, maturing December 2022.

### PROCUREMENT ROUND-UP

**January 4** - **Intelsat S.A.** (Intelsat) contracted with **Orbital ATK, Inc.** (Orbital) for a second **Mission Extension Vehicle** (MEV-2). Orbital will manufacture, test and launch MEV-2 to perform mission extension services for an Intelsat satellite starting in mid-2020. Orbital is currently manufacturing **Mission Extension Vehicle-1** (MEV-1) for Intelsat, with the launch of MEV-1 scheduled for late 2018.

**January 8** – Intelsat selected Orbital to manufacture the **Galaxy 30** satellite, the first replacement satellite for Intelsat's North American **Galaxy** fleet, based on Orbital's **GEOSTAR-2™** satellite platform. Galaxy 30 will provide broadcast and broadband services to users across North America.

**January 9** – **Arianespace S.A.** announced that it was selected by Intelsat to perform two launch missions. The first launch – scheduled for early 2020 – will orbit Galaxy 30 and MEV-2 as a stacked pair on an **Ariane 5** launch vehicle. The second launch – scheduled for the second half of 2020 – will orbit another, as yet unannounced satellite for Intelsat.

**January 16** – **Virgin Orbit, LLC** announced that it was selected by **GomSpace ApS** (GomSpace) to launch several nanosatellites on the **LauncherOne** launch system in early 2019. GomSpace intends to use the mission towards deployment of its constellation of small satellites, which will use Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) and Automatic Identification System (AIS) signal monitoring to track civilian aircraft and ocean vessels.

### JANUARY LAUNCH SERVICES

**January 12** – **Indian Space Research Organisation** (ISRO) successfully launched its own **Cartosat-2** remote sensing satellite, plus two Indian co-passenger and 28 international customer satellites on a **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle** in a return to flight after an August 2017 launch failure. Customer satellites included the **Phase 1** satellite for **Telesat Canada** (Telesat) and the **ICEYE-X1** satellite for Finnish start-up **ICEYE Oy** (ICEYE). Manufactured by **Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd.**, Phase 1 is Telesat's first LEO satellite as part of its plans to deploy, by 2021, a 120-satellite LEO constellation to provide broadband communications worldwide. ICEYE-X1 is Finland's first commercial satellite and the first microsatellite to be equipped with a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) sensor. ICEYE plans to deploy 18 SAR-enabled microsatellites to provide high temporal resolution imagery.

**January 18** – **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency** successfully launched the **ASNARO-2** Earth observation SAR satellite, developed by **NEC Corporation** with support from the Japanese **Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry**, on an **Epsilon-3** launch vehicle.

**January 19** – **China Great Wall Industry Corporation** successfully launched six satellites, including the **KIPP** satellite for Canadian startup **Kepler Communications Inc.** (Kepler), on a **Long March 11** launch vehicle. KIPP is the first of two demonstration satellites for Kepler, which plans to deploy a 140-satellite LEO constellation to offer store-&-forward data backhaul services.

**January 20** – **Rocket Lab Ltd.**'s **Electron** launch vehicle reached orbit for the first time, testing a new kick stage and launching two **Lemur-2** satellites for **Spire Global, Inc.** and a **Dove** satellite for **Planet Labs Inc.**

**January 25** – **Arianespace S.A.** successfully launched the **SES-14** and **Al Yah 3** satellites for **SES S.A.** and **Al Yah Satellite Communications Company PJSC** (Yahsat), respectively, on an **Ariane 5** launch vehicle. Despite a reported anomaly resulting from a trajectory deviation of the vehicle's upper stage, both satellites reportedly are operating in orbit nominally. SES-14 was manufactured by **Airbus Defence and Space SAS**; it will cover the Americas, Caribbean and North Atlantic from 47.5°W. SES-14 is also equipped with a scientific payload for **NASA's GOLD** program. Al-Yah 3 was manufactured by **Orbital ATK, Inc.**; it will serve new Yahsat markets in Africa and Brazil from 20°W.