

# Satellite and Space Projects News

June 2014

## A digest of recent news from the satellite and space projects sector

**UK Space Growth Action Plan:** On 30 April the UK government published its [response](#) to the [Space Innovation and Growth Strategy \(IGS\) action plan 2014 – 2030](#). You can read our summary of the response [here](#).

**Laser Light funding for Space Optics test facility:** US Finance Inc is to lend \$24 million to UK company, Laser Light™ Global Limited™, to build The HALO Center™, a laser communications test and evaluation facility, in Reston, VA. The centre will be operational in late 2014 and is expected to be the first global, open-architected commercial test facility and Network Operating Centre focused on next-generation Free Space Optics communications technology.

**Credit facility for GenCorp:** Defence and aerospace manufacturer, GenCorp Inc, announced on 21 April that it entered into a \$100 million subordinated delayed draw term loan credit facility. GenCorp intends to use borrowings under the facility for a variety of purposes which may include refinancing of existing debt, repurchasing common equity, working capital and general corporate purposes.

**US Russia sanctions:** Industry uncertainty continues over the US State Department's announcement that it will refuse licence applications for the export of any high technology defence articles or services on the U.S Munitions List to Russia, if they "contribute to Russia's military capabilities". There are concerns that the State Department could apply this to the shipping of commercial satellites for launch on Russian launch vehicles.

**Thales Alenia Space strikes KT Sat deal:** Thales Alenia Space announced on 12 May that it has signed a contract with Korean satellite service operator KT Sat to build two telecommunications satellites, Koreasat-7 and Koreasat-5A. Koreasat-7, at 116° East, will be fitted with Ku-band and Ka-band transponders and with coverage of Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia and India. Koreasat-5A, at 113° East, will carry Ku-band transponders and will cover Korea, Japan, Indochina and the Middle East.

**UK, US, Canada and Australia join space co-operation partnership:** The four nations announced their new space defence co-operation partnership on 21 May. The partner countries will co-operate on activities such as identifying and understanding what objects are in space, ensuring uninterrupted satellite operations, and avoiding satellite collisions.

**Sea Launch and Eutelsat 3B** Sea Launch successfully launched the EUTELSAT 3B satellite from at its ocean-based Launch Platform Odyssey on 27 May. The EUTELSAT 3B satellite is based on the Eurostar E3000 platform from Airbus Defence and Space. It has been designed to operate three commercial payloads in the C, Ku and Ka bands and will provide coverage over Brazil, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia.

**European Space Agency and the EU:** The European Council has confirmed its view that transforming the European Space Agency (ESA) into an EU agency would "require political consensus which may be difficult to reach in the foreseeable future". That leaves open two remaining proposals for reform of the relationship between the EU and ESA: (i) developing a new framework agreement to improve co-operation between the EU and ESA, or (ii) creating an EU-like environment (an EU "pillar") that would sit within ESA, operating in line with EU rules, to run EU programmes. The European Commission is planning further work to assess the impact of these proposals.

**MEASAT 3b launch delayed:** MEASAT Global announced on 26 May that the launch of MEASAT-3b launch, scheduled for 6 June has been postponed to enable repairs to the satellite. MEASAT-3b is designed to provide an additional 48 high powered Ku-band transponders to the 91.5°E orbital slot to expand Direct-To-Home and VSAT services across Malaysia, India, Indonesia and Australia.

### Contacts

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