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ESPI

Insights

SPACE SECTOR WATCH

ESA astronaut Sophie Adenot begins epsilon mission with SpaceX Crew-12 launch

On 13 February 2026, a SpaceX Dragon Freedom capsule lifted off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida and successfully launched ESA astronaut Sophie Adenot, two NASA astronauts and a Roscosmos cosmonaut into orbit.

After 34 hours orbiting Earth, Crew-12 docked with the International Space Station (ISS), marking the official start of ESA's epsilon mission. The mission is expected to become the longest ESA astronaut mission to date, with a duration of up to nine months. During her time on the ISS, Sophie Adenot will serve as crew specialist for the European laboratory module Columbus and Japanese science module Kibo, conducting up to 36 European experiments, including seven developed by CNES specifically for the epsilon mission.



Credit: ESA

Rebecca Evernden is appointed new UKSA Director

Rebecca Evernden has been appointed as the new Director of the UK Space Agency (UKSA), replacing Paul Bate, who will step down as UKSA CEO at the end of March 2026 after leading the Agency for four and a half years. During this period, Paul Bate delivered two delegations to the ESA Ministerial Councils and contributed to securing access to record levels of national space funding. Prior to her new position as Director, Rebecca Evernden has held various roles as Policy Director and International Director of UKSA, and Director for Space at the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), collaborating closely with both ESA and the EU, leading UK launch legislation, and serving as a Trustee of the National Space Centre. UKSA has also announced plans to launch a recruitment campaign to hire a jobshare partner who will work alongside Rebecca Evernden. The shift in leadership follows the 2025 announcement that UKSA will merge with DSIT's Space Directorate to form a single unit responsible for civil space policy and delivery.

NASA delays Artemis II mission to April 2026

Following a successful wet dress rehearsal in mid-February, NASA has delayed the Artemis II launch from March to April 2026. While the systems functioned correctly during the wet dress rehearsals, an interrupted flow of helium was detected on 21 February within the rocket's interim cryogenic propulsion stage. This issue prevents the necessary pressurisation of propellant tanks, leading NASA to initiate a rollback of the SLS rocket and Orion spacecraft from Launch Complex-39B to the Vehicle Assembly Building on 25 February. Engineers are currently investigating potential causes and reviewing data from Artemis I, which experienced similar helium-related pressurisation issues.



Credit: NASA

EUSPA signs framework contract with Thales Alenia Space

The European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA) has signed a framework contract with Thales Alenia Space to develop the European GNSS Service Demonstrator (ESD). This centralised, modular platform is designed to advance EU Space services, including EGNOS, Galileo, Copernicus, and GOVSATCOM/IRIS². Through modular and flexible ground and support segments, the ESD will be able to process data from various reference stations and generate real-time corrections and messages. The platform will facilitate the rollout of improved services, such as High Accuracy (HAS) and authentication (OSNMA/SAS) without disrupting current operations. By emulating signals for realistic testing, the platform will support the prototyping of receivers, standardisation, and refining user needs across sectors (e.g. maritime, rail, automotive).

NASA reshapes Artemis, adding LEO docking test ahead of first Moon landing

NASA has announced a replan of its Artemis architecture intended to reduce risk and compress the time between major mission. Under the revised sequence, Artemis III would shift from a landing attempt to an LEO docking demonstration between Orion and SpaceX's HLS or/and Blue Origin's Blue Moon, with the first astronaut lunar landing moved to Artemis IV in 2028. NASA has also indicated it will standardise on a single SLS configuration rather than pursue planned upgrades, framing the change as a way to increase production and support a more regular flight cadence. The update comes amid ongoing schedule pressure on Artemis II and reflects NASA's emphasis on validating end-to-end mission operations—including docking and EVA systems—before committing crews to a landing profile.



Credit: NASA

Pentagon solicits proposals for commercially-built GEO surveillance satellites

The Pentagon, through the U.S. Defence Innovation Unit (DIU), has issued a solicitation for proposals to develop commercially built surveillance satellites designed to monitor geosynchronous orbit. The initiative aims to address what has been described by the DIU as a “capability gap” in space domain awareness in response to “escalating threats” against the systems on which the U.S. depends for deterrence and decision-making. Shifting away from traditional satellite acquisition methods, the DIU is using a Commercial Solutions Opening to increase efficiency through a streamlined contracting approach with fewer regulatory requirements than standard federal procurement. Selected companies will be responsible for constructing and initially operating the satellites before transferring them to full government ownership and control within 36 months. While the solicitation is open to both U.S. and international vendors, it does not specify the number of vendors to be selected or the total satellites to be procured.

ESA awards OHB €81.2M contract for Ramses mission

ESA has signed an €81.2M contract with OHB Italia for the construction, assembly, and testing of the Ramses mission (Rapid Apophis Mission for Space Safety). Scheduled to be launched in Spring 2028, the Ramses probe will be leveraged to study the asteroid Apophis as it passes within 32,000 km of the Earth's surface in early 2029. The mission aims to study the asteroid's composition and its interaction with the Earth's gravitational forces. This latest agreement follows a previous €63M contract, awarded in October 2025.

Singapore establishes National Space Agency

The Singapore Government has revealed plans to establish the National Space Agency of Singapore (NSAS), starting from 1 April 2026. The Agency will be established under the aegis of the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) and will be responsible for leading national space ambitions. NSAS will lead national efforts to leverage the values and opportunities emerging from the global space economy. It will build upon the current functions of the Office of Space Technology & Industry, Singapore (OSTIn), which include strengthening R&D, developing the space industry, and advancing international partnerships, alongside assuming new functions. These include developing and operating Singapore's national space capabilities and developing legislation and regulations oriented towards innovation and business, while also ensuring safety and sustainability in space.

Algeria launches ALSAT-3B

On 30 January 2026, a Long March-2C rocket lifted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre and successfully launched Algeria's second satellite of 2026 into orbit. Developed and launched in collaboration with China, specifically the Fifth Academy of the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation, ALSAT-3B is an EO satellite designed to support land-use planning and disaster prevention and mitigation. The launch of ALSAT-3B follows the January 15 launch of ALSAT-3A, completing the July 2023 Algeria-China contract to develop and launch two optical remote sensing satellites. The contract also included ground systems, training, and support services.



Credit: CMG

ASI and Telespazio establish “RESPONSE” programme

The Italian Space Agency (ASI) and Telespazio have signed an agreement to modernise Telespazio's FOC-1A antenna through the “RESPONSE” programme. The project aims to upgrade the parabolic antenna, which was used to broadcast the 1969 moon landing, to support the requirements of Near-Earth and Deep Space communications. Once upgraded, the antenna will integrate into the ESA ESTRACK network and support lunar initiatives, including NASA's Artemis programme and ESA's Moonlight programme, while enhancing data exchange for ASI and international partners.

Tenerife Island Council awards Telespazio Ibérica €20M contract

The Tenerife Island Council has awarded a €20M contract to the Spanish subsidiary of Telespazio, Telespazio Ibérica, for the development of an EO constellation for the Canary Islands. The constellation will form part of a broader security and protection strategy and will be leveraged for assessing climate change impacts, optimising natural resource management, and supporting disaster management. While the initial proposal envisioned eight satellites with a €21.3M budget, the current contract tasks Telespazio with developing three operational satellites and one technology demonstrator, each weighing between 20kg and 30kg. Telespazio Ibérica was selected by the Canary Islands Institute of Astrophysics following a competitive bid against Aistech Space and Open Cosmos Canarias. Telespazio Ibérica will lead the project, construct the ground segment, and manage the constellation. The technology demonstrator is scheduled for launch in 2027, followed by the three satellites in 2028.



Credit: Telespazio

Synspective and Axelspace conclude agreements for Japan MoD

Axelspace and Synspective have concluded imagery-related contracts for Japan's planned privately-run satellite constellation supporting the Ministry of Defence, with both companies subcontracted via Tri-Sat Constellation—a special purpose company established by SKY Perfect JSAT, Mitsubishi Electric and Mitsui—to provide services through 31 March 2031. Axelspace is set to act as the sole provider of optical imagery under a contract valued at JPY 48B (€260M), while Synspective has cited a JPY 105.6B (€570M) contract covering SAR image data acquisition and related activities, with the contract period running from February 2026. In parallel, Synspective has also established an European subsidiary in Munich to strengthen regional business development and partnerships, and to deepen engagement with European institutional and commercial customers.

IN OTHER NEWS

ESA Director General meets with NASA Administrator

ESA Director General Josef Aschbacher has met with NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman to discuss shared objectives, including space exploration. Following the meeting, Isaacman noted that ESA will remain a key partner for NASA.

ESA and ArianeGroup to conduct Themis hop test in Spring 2026

ESA and ArianeGroup's Themis reusable launcher demonstrator project has gained significant momentum following the successful installation of the prototype at the Esrange Space Center in Kiruna, Sweden. The hop test is currently scheduled for Q2 2026.

ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence signs MoU with EBIAITE

The ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence of the Cyprus University of Technology has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Hellenic Association of Space Industry (EBIAITE) to establish a collaboration framework between the Cypriot and Greek space technology ecosystems.

Isaacman plans meeting with Roscosmos head

NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman has announced plans to meet with his counterpart at Roscosmos and is also interested in attending an upcoming Soyuz launch, signalling willingness to maintain direct agency-level engagement alongside ongoing ISS-related cooperation.

AXISCADES signs SSA Indo-French agreement

AXISCADES Technologies has signed an agreement at the Embassy of France in New Delhi to enhance India's Space Situational Awareness capabilities. The agreement was announced coinciding with French President Emmanuel Macron's state visit to India.

Oh Tae-seok appointed as KASA Chief Administrator

President Lee Jae-myung has appointed Oh Tae-seok as administrator of the Korea AeroSpace Administration, who was previously the first Vice Minister at the Ministry of Science and ICT and led the Nuri rocket launch management committee.

OHB establishes European Moonport Company

OHB has founded the European Moonport Company, a new entity headquartered at its Oberpfaffenhofen site near Munich, intended as an innovation hub to consolidate the group's activities related to future lunar missions in Bavaria. Presented alongside Bavarian Minister President Markus Söder and ESA Director General Josef Aschbacher, the initiative positions dedicated European lunar infrastructure as a prerequisite for a sustainable and autonomous European presence on the Moon amid intensifying international competition. OHB has outlined an initial "Moonport" concept developed with Munich Airport International, envisaged as a central lunar launch and landing facility to support logistics flights and, over time, crewed spacecraft, while highlighting enabling infrastructure needs, spanning landing pads, power, oxygen and propellant supply, and lunar navigation and communications.



Credit: OHB

Arianespace flies first Ariane 64 mission, deploying Amazon LEO satellites

On February 12, Ariane 6 rocket lifted off for the first time in its the four-booster configuration and successfully deployed a batch of Amazon LEO satellites, marking the inaugural use of the launcher's higher-lift variant. The mission demonstrated the configuration intended for heavier payloads and higher-energy profiles compared with the two-booster version. By carrying constellation payload on its first Ariane 64 mission, Arianespace has also signalled the vehicle's role in supporting repeat LEO deployments alongside its broader commercial and institutional manifest as the programme ramps up.



Credit: Arianespace

Isar Aerospace expands Spectrum testing footprint with second Esrance facility

Isar Aerospace has opened a second test site at SSC Space's Esrance Space Center in Kiruna, Sweden, as part of its stated effort to support the development and production ramp-up of its Spectrum launch vehicle. The new, purpose-built acceptance test facility will reportedly be capable of testing more than 30 engines per month and will enable fully integrated stage acceptance testing, which has been framed by the company as a key enabler for scaling production and matching an increased launch cadence. Isar Aerospace also linked the Esrance expansion to the progress of its new production facility near Munich, noting that fit-out works are underway, and described the two Esrance test sites as tailored to its requirements and aligned with its vertically integrated approach across design, manufacturing, testing and operations.

Starlab advance NASA milestone and announces LambdaVision as its first customer

Starlab Space has completed a Commercial Critical Design Review (CCDR) with NASA in attendance, marking what the company has described as a transition from design into manufacturing and systems integration for its commercial orbital laboratory. Starlab has also reported completing a review of its business plan and operating model as part of the CCDR process, intended to validate the programme's commercial basis. In parallel, LambdaVision has signed a reservation agreement to secure payload slots and commercial space on Starlab's station to scale manufacturing of its protein-based artificial retina in LEO, building on prior ISS-based work and preparing for the ISS's planned 2030 retirement.

Amazon increases investment as FCC expands authorisation for LEO constellation

Amazon has announced an increase in spending on its Amazon LEO programme by around \$1B in 2026, linking the higher outlay to an accelerated deployment plan that could exceed 20 launches in 2026 and more than 30 in 2027, as it targets the start of commercial service in 2026. In parallel, Amazon LEO has announced its first maritime reseller agreements with MTN and Elcome, positioning the service for commercial shipping, offshore operations and yachting, including potential deployment across Elcome’s installed base of more than 5,000 vessels. The FCC has also authorised Amazon LEO to deploy a further 4,500 satellites, expanding the programme’s approved constellation architecture. Amazon currently has until July 2026, to launch half of its planned 3,000+ Gen 1 satellites, with the remainder required to be deployed by July 2029. Amazon Leo has also partnered with Vanu, Inc., to provide mobile broadband across South Africa and rural areas.

ReOrbit and Google Cloud partner on “Space Cloud” in-orbit data network

Finnish satellite manufacturer ReOrbit has announced a partnership with Google Cloud to develop a satellite network designed to securely transport and process data in orbit, called “Space Cloud”. The initiative combines Google Cloud’s data-management capabilities with ReOrbit’s manufacturing, targeting demand for orbital computing and secure communications. ReOrbit has outlined a concept featuring quantum key distribution for encrypted communications, optical terminals for inter-satellite data transfer, onboard edge processing for real-time AI, and direct-to-device downlink capabilities. The “Space Cloud” is also being designed for European and NATO customers seeking data sovereignty via a “Sovereign Space Cloud” focused on isolating national security data, alongside a commercial track envisaging a marketplace for EO insights and edge-compute services, with further details expected to be shared at Google Cloud’s Next conference in April.



Credit: ReOrbit

SpaceX expands operation through Starship, Falcon 9 and Starlink

The FAA has approved Starship launches from LC-39A at Kennedy Space Center, giving SpaceX an additional pad option as the company works to increase the vehicle’s flight frequency. Later in the month, on 14 February, a Falcon 9 launched for the 600th time, carrying the Starlink 17-13 mission, and Starlink 10-34 flew a few days later, including a first-stage booster recovery near the Bahamas. On the services side, MTN has received authorisation to offer SpaceX’s government satellite connectivity to customers, broadening distribution through a third-party operator. SpaceX has also announced a 150 Mbps speed target for an upgraded tier of its direct-to-cell Starlink service and indicated the service has become operational in Senegal.



Credit: Spaceflightnow

Infinite Orbits expands into Luxembourg through acquisition of LMO operations

Infinite Orbits has announced the acquisition of LMO's Luxembourg-based autonomous space systems company. The move expands Infinite Orbits European presence, building on earlier team expansions in France and Spain, aiming to grow the local footprint and deepen cooperation with partners in the Luxembourg ecosystem. After years of partnership between the two companies, the acquisition is aimed at strengthening the Orbit Guard servicer by integrating LMO's autonomous SSA software, including on-board capabilities intended to improve monitoring and deliver more processed data to end users. The deal is also intended to reinforce rendezvous and proximity operations capabilities relevant to its in-orbit servicing activities, including its Endurance life-extension servicer.

Panasonic signs MOU with SpaceSail to extend in-flight connectivity in China

Panasonic Avionics has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Shanghai SpaceSail Technologies to explore the possibility of integrating SpaceSail's LEO constellation into Panasonic's in-flight connectivity network. The agreement will allow the companies to begin developing a plan to provide LEO connectivity to airlines and passengers, leveraging SpaceSail's position operating over China. Panasonic has framed the move as a milestone for improving connectivity across the Asia-Pacific region and globally, complementary to its existing partnerships, including with Eutelsat's OneWeb LEO network. SpaceSail has been described as actively deploying its constellation, with Chinese state media reporting 108 satellites in orbit and multiple thousands planned.



Credit: Panasonic

Eutelsat reports 59.7% OneWeb revenue growth and weighs new revenue streams

Eutelsat has reported a 59.7% increase in connectivity revenue from its OneWeb LEO constellation in the six months ending 31 December 2025, with OneWeb service revenue rising to EUR 110.5M as total company revenue declined 2.4% year-on-year to EUR 591.6M. In its investor presentation, Eutelsat said it is weighing two potential new revenue streams: offering hosted payloads on upcoming OneWeb satellites and monetising elements of its ground segment. Eutelsat said it aims to communicate progress on hosted payload marketing by June and highlighted that its 10-year, EUR 1bn OneWeb contract with the French military includes options for military hosted payloads, with further steps expected in H2 following French Army budget confirmation. The company also said it remains in contact with Germany regarding its LEO broadband plans and reiterated its target for IRIS² to come live in 2030, with an initial version planned for 2029.

IN OTHER NEWS

Sateliot selects PLD Space for dedicated MIURA 5 launch

Sateliot and PLD Space have signed a launch services contract for a dedicated MIURA 5 mission targeted for 2027. The flight will deploy two “Tritó” satellites into LEO, expanding Sateliot’s 5G direct-to-device capability.

Avio to invest USD 500M in solid rocket motor facility in Virginia

Avio USA has announced its plans to invest approx. \$500M to build a new solid rocket motor manufacturing facility in Hurt, Virginia, targeting defence, missile and commercial space markets.

Vast wins its first NASA private astronaut mission to the ISS

Vast has been selected by NASA to conduct a private astronaut mission to the ISS in summer 2027, marking the company’s first such flight under the agency’s private astronaut programme. **Vast has also announced the opening of first international office in Japan.**

KSAT launches Hyperion in-orbit data-relay demonstration

KSAT has launched its Hyperion demonstration to test in-orbit data-relay services, aiming to expand how satellites can downlink data beyond direct ground-station contact windows.

D-Orbit and ELT Group partner for Saudi Arabia’s 2030 Vision

D-Orbit and ELT Group have signed a cooperation framework aimed at supporting Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030 objectives, focusing on potential collaborations spanning satellite missions and services, alongside industrial and capability development in the Kingdom.

Deutsche Telekom launches first multi-orbit IoT roaming

Deutsche Telekom has announced what it describes as the world’s first multi-orbit IoT roaming service, enabling NB-IoT devices to switch between terrestrial coverage and satellite connectivity via both GEO and LEO systems, supported through satellite partners including Skylo (GEO) and Sateliot and OQ Technology (LEO).

Synspective partners with Airbus on SAR Satellite data access

Japanese SAR operator Synspective signed a radar satellite data framework agreement with Airbus Defence and Space, integrating Synspective’s StriX constellation data into Airbus Earth observation portfolio.

Eutelsat signs €1 billion financing to replenish Oneweb constellation

Eutelsat announced the signing of a **€975 million Export Credit Agency (ECA) financing** to fund replacement satellites for its OneWeb constellation. The financing is provided by a pool of commercial banks and is guaranteed by the French State via Bpifrance Assurance Export. The disbursement remains subject to conditions such as a bond issuance by Eutelsat Communications. The funding will support a contract with Airbus Defence and Space for 340 satellites to be manufactured at Airbus' Toulouse facility. These satellites will progressively replace the existing ones launched in 2020-2023 as they reach end of life. In June 2025, **the French government became Eutelsat's largest shareholder following a €1.35 billion capital increase** aimed at supporting the company's satellite infrastructure expansion.



Credit: Eutelsat

Orbex appoints administrators after failing to raise scale-up funding

Orbex announced the beginning of **the legal insolvency process of appointing administrators**. The decision comes after its Danish subsidiary, Orbital Express Launch ApS, declared formal bankruptcy in January, with its facilities officially closed on 20 January. Founded in 2015, the company had been developing a sovereign UK solution for a two-stage reusable rocket for small payloads.

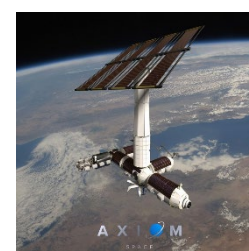
After failing to secure scale-up funding, the startup explored merger and acquisition options, including discussions with The Exploration Company, but without success. The company has since released visual updates on some of its hardware, including the Prime rocket it had been developing, to attract investors. However, on the 18th of February, it **formally announced the end of its journey**.

iSpace paves road to IPO with €617 million investment

Chinese reusable launch firm iSpace (also known as Interstellar Glory Aerospace Science and Technology) **has raised ¥5 billion (approx. €617 million) in a "Series D++ round"**. The round, which stands as the largest for a Chinese launch company raised to date, included 27 investors in total and was co-led by Cowin Capital and Jingming Capital. iSpace will use the funding to pave the way for its IPO, accelerating the development and commercialisation of its reusable liquid oxygen and methane rocket, Hyperbola-3. iSpace is the first private Chinese company to perform orbital launches by operating its own-built solid-fuelled Hyperbola-1 in 2019.

Axiom Space raises \$350 million for ISS successor and new NASA spacesuits

Axiom Space **has raised \$350 million** to advance the development of its space station and next-generation spacesuits. The funding round was co-led by Type One Ventures and Qatar Investment Authority (QIA). With the ISS expected to be decommissioned by 2030, the U.S. company is building a multi-module station that will initially attach to the ISS Harmony node before detaching to operate independently. Axiom Space is also designing **the Axiom Extravehicular Mobility Unit**, a space suit commissioned by NASA for the Artemis III mission. Thales Alenia Space is one of the key partners to the station, having signed an agreement in 2021 to provide two pressurised modules, including the AX-H1 module, the main living habitat for the next astronauts.



Credit: Axiom Space

Stoke Space adds \$350 million to its previous Series D round

The U.S.-based company Stoke Space has raised **\$350 million on a Series D extension round**. The company did not disclose the investors involved in the round. The funding will support the development of its reusable launch vehicle and other future projects. The U.S. company is developing Nova, a fully reusable launcher able to accommodate three to seven tons to LEO, depending on the configuration. The rocket still does not have a launch date.



Credit: Stoke Space

CesiumAstro raises \$270 million in Series C funding round

U.S. company CesiumAstro **secured \$270 million in a Series C round** led by Trousdale Ventures. The Round comes after **last month's \$200 million capital** injection by the Export-Import Bank of the United States. CesiumAstro announced that the capital will be used to build the company's new headquarters in Texas, to expand its manufacturing capacity, and accelerate the deployment of its AI-enabled space communications platforms worldwide.

Since its foundation in 2017, the company has been developing connectivity solutions for satellites, UAVs, launch vehicles, and other space or airborne platforms, specialising in phased array technology and witnessing a substantial growth **by supplying major LEO constellations such as Starlink, OneWeb and Kuiper**.

Tomorrow.io announces \$175 million in Series F equity to deploy DeepSky

U.S.-based Tomorrow.io announced **a \$175 million Series F equity financing** led by Stonecourt Capital and HarbourVest to accelerate the deployment of DeepSky, an AI-native weather satellite constellation. The funding will be used to expand the company's infrastructure and intelligence platform.



Founded in 2016, Tomorrow.io is researching real-time weather forecasting by developing improved mechanisms for collecting information from diverse sensors and systems to calculate precipitation, atmospheric water vapour, and related phenomena. The company is also advancing real-time precipitation forecasting systems using microwave link data and signal attenuation and employing machine learning in forecasting methods.

Credit: Tomorrow.io

Seraphim space raises over \$100 million for its second Space Venture Fund

Seraphim Space has **raised over \$100 million (approx. €87 million) for its second venture fund**, named Seraphim Space Ventures II (SSV II). The capital will be dedicated to financing early-stage startups that support the commercialisation of the space sector. SSV II sees the contribution of new entities such as the Saudi satellite operator Arabsat, the government-backed National Security Strategic Investment Fund, and the British Business Bank.

According to Seraphim representatives, since its inauguration in 2024, the UK-headquartered fund has already invested in 17 European and U.S. companies, such as Atmos Space Cargo, Array Labs, Delos and Constellr. The venture company's portfolio covers several areas, including Defence, Artificial Intelligence, Climate, and Space Infrastructure.

Aalyria secures \$100 million Series B to develop connectivity solutions

Aalya, a spinout from Google, has raised **\$100 million in a Series B venture round**. The round values the company at \$1.3 billion. The capital will be used to expand Aalya's workforce and deploy Spacetime, its software platform that maintains a planetary-scale digital twin of moving assets and directly orchestrates satellites to guarantee immediate connectivity in disrupted areas.

The company is also developing Tightbeam, an optical communications terminal designed for use on the ground, planes, ships and satellites capable of delivering

Credit: Aalyria speeds of 100 GBps.



SatVu secures €34 million to scale its satellite constellation

The UK-based startup has secured **£30 million (approx. €34 million) in equity funding**, co-led by the British Business Bank and the NATO Innovation Fund. The investment will be used to accelerate the development of its constellation. The company aims to launch its first two satellites in 2026 and to commercialise an additional three in the future.



Credit: SatVu

Founded in 2016, SatVu is specialised in the development of precise thermal-detection telescopic systems, focusing on forward motion compensation technology. This involves a telescope with a de-scanning secondary mirror designed to observe objects in motion, enhancing the accuracy and quality of satellite imagery.

OQ Technology secures €25 million venture debt facility to develop D2D connectivity

The Luxembourg-based startup OQ Technology has secured **€25 million venture in venture debt from the European Investment Bank**. The company is developing direct-to-device (D2D) connectivity solutions for smartphones, IoT and secure communications, and plans to use the funding to launch more than 20 small satellites over the next two years.



The public-backed financing comes at a time when U.S.-based companies are accelerating the development and deployment of D2D solutions. Among OQ Technology's planned launches will be the first satellite dedicated to providing smartphone connectivity in C-band.

Credit: OQ Technology

Morpheus Space raises €13 million in Series A+ round

Morpheus Space has secured **€13 million in a Series A round**, led by Alpine Space Ventures with the participation of the European Investment Fund. The Germany-based company will use the investment to support the expansion of Morpheus Space's production facility in Dresden.



Credit: Morpheus Space

With the industrial build-up, Morpheus Space aims to mass-produce its modular small-satellite propulsion system called GO-2. The objective is to achieve an output of 100 GO-2s per year. Founded in 2018 as a spin-off of the Technical University of Dresden, the company expanded into the U.S. in 2021.

IN OTHER NEWS

Aurora Starcom raises approx. €37 million optical links

Chinese company Aurora Starcom, also known as Laser Starcom or Beijing Jiguang Xingtong Technology, completed a nearly ¥300 million (approx. €37 million) “Series A4” round. Beijing Information Industry Fund, Yuekai Capital, and Huacheng Venture Capital are the main investors. The capital will be used to iterate its optical communication products and scale its manufacturing capabilities

Space Epoch secures undisclosed funding for reusable rocket

Chinese reusable rockets startup Space Epoch announced a new Series B funding round for an undisclosed amount and number of investors. According to the company, the new investment will pave the way to scale its current facilities. Space Epoch is producing the Yuanxingzhe-1, a reusable launch vehicle capable of delivering 6,500 kilograms into LEO.

Agile Space Industries raises \$17 million in Series A round

U.S. startup Agile Space raised a \$17 million Series A funding to support the company’s expansion. The round was led by Caruso Ventures and Howdy Partners, with additional participation from Lockheed Martin Ventures, Veteran Ventures Capital, Denver Ventures, and Cortado Ventures. The company builds and tests in-space propulsion systems for satellites and spacecraft.

Sophia Space closes \$10 million in seed round

American startup Sophia Space closed a \$10 million seed round to accelerate the development and testing of its in-orbit computing technology. The company plans to have operational orbital data centres in the 2030s. The round was led by Alpha Funds, KDDI Green Partners, and Unlock Venture Partners.

Uplift360 closes €7.4 million Seed for material recycling

Luxembourgish startup Uplift 360 raised €7.4 million in a seed round led by Extantia Capitals with the participation of Fund F, Promus Ventures and the NATO innovation fund. The company offers solutions for aerospace, defence and automotive components recycling and reutilisation.

ISP Tech raises €5.5 million Seed round for in-space mobility

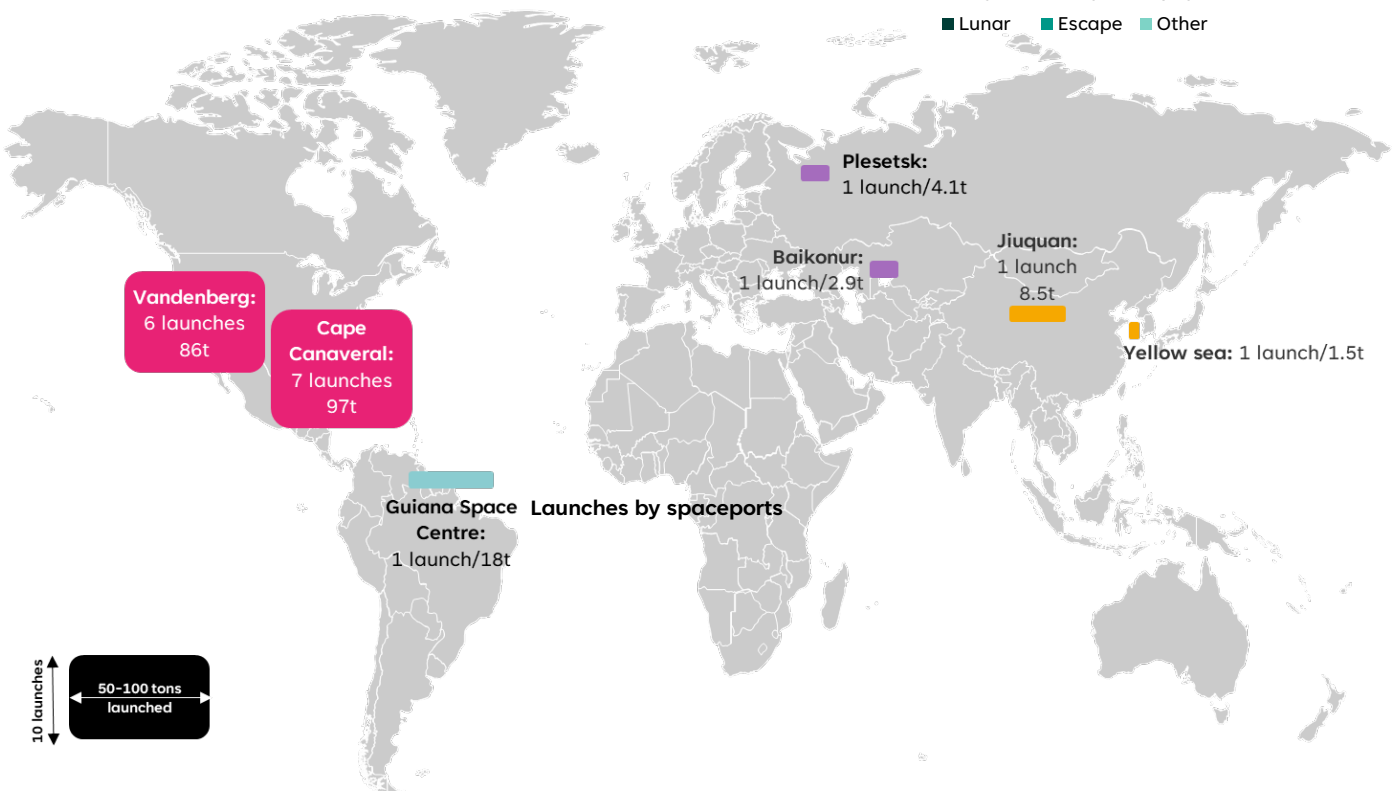
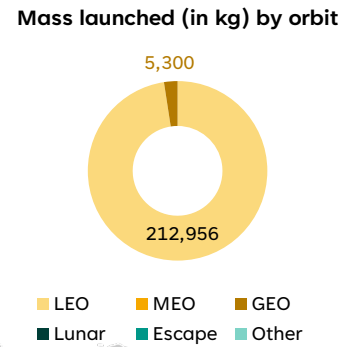
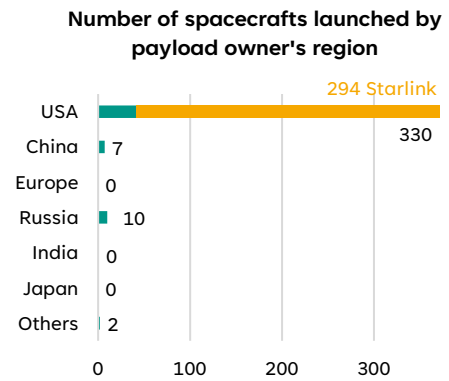
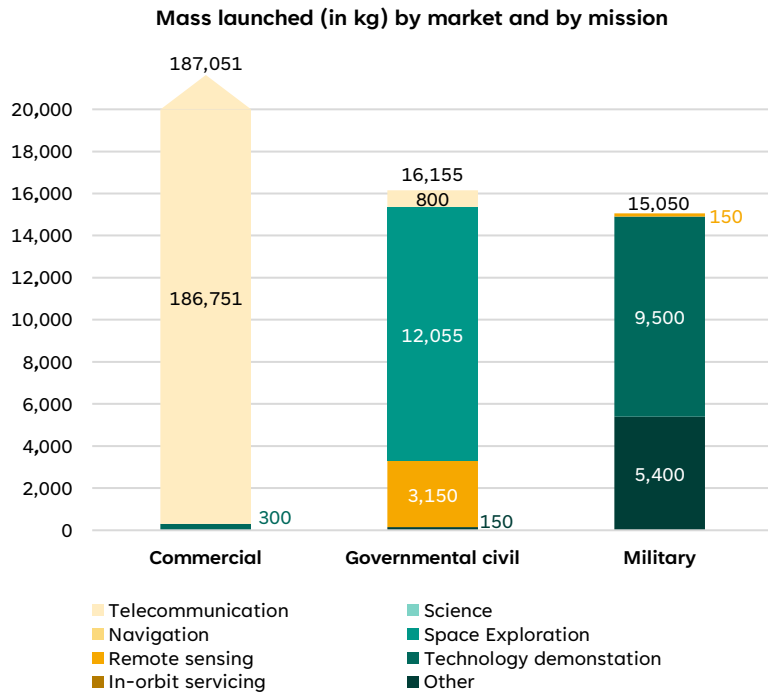
German startup ISP Tech, a spin-off from the German Aerospace Center (DLR), raised a €5.5 million seed round. The operation has been led by Join Capital and joined by the DLR, High-Tech Gründerfonds and Faber, among others. The funding aims to enhance the development of its sustainable and non-toxic in-space propulsion systems.

LAUNCHES & PAYLOADS – FEB 2026

Launch provider's region	USA	China	Europe	Russia	India	Japan	Others	Total
Number of launches	13	2	1	2	0	0	0	18
Number of spacecrafts launched	298	8	32	11	0	0	0	349
Mass launched (in kg)	183,505	10,000	17,701	7,050	0	0	0	218,256

Top launch service providers of the month

- 1 SpaceX (12)
- 2 CASC (2)
- 3 Others (1)



The data is an estimation from ESPI's internal launches dataset, publicly accessible since May 2025 through the **ESPI Launch Dashboard**.

ESPI

Insights

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