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Global Recruitment & Executive Search | Satellite & NewSpace Specialists

# Satellite & NewSpace Snapshot

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS - APRIL 2022

## Launches, Tech Demos and Partnerships: April Proves to be a Bumper Month for Development In NewSpace

Now we are well into 2022, it is great to see that innovation and commercialisation in the NewSpace market shows no signs of slowing down.

From E-Space launching their very first satellites, Amazon's Project Kuiper securing over 80 launches, OneWeb signing new launch agreements with ISRO, this month's edition certainly has a running theme.

However, it's not all about launches but also about firsts, with Kepler Communications having conducted their first inter-satellite link tests, Exotrail are poised to start their debut mission for their SpaceVan platform and Rocket Lab's first attempt at catching an Electron first stage. That's a lot of firsts!

### In this issue:

[OneWeb and ISRO/New Space India Sign New Agreement for Future Launches](#)

[Exotrail Announce Debut SpaceVan Mission Due to be Launched Late 2023](#)

## Featured Companies

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| OneWeb                | Exotrail             |
| BryceTech             | Orbit Fab            |
| Rocket Lab            | Neutron Star Systems |
| Astra Space           | Alba Orbital         |
| Kepler Communications | E-Space              |

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Episode 61

THOMAS GRÜBLER  
CEO & CO-FOUNDER AT ORORATECH



## OneWeb and ISRO/New Space India Sign New Agreement for Future Launches

It's not been all smooth sailing recently for OneWeb, following the removal of their satellites from a Russian Soyuz launch vehicle back in March of this year, but they have been working hard to secure future launches and stick to their proposed timeline to complete their constellation. After signing an agreement with SpaceX late last month, they have now announced a new contract with ISRO and their commercial arm, New Space India Limited, to launch further satellites from India, with the first launch expected this year.

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## BryceTech Release Q1 Rocket Launch and Satellite Deployment Report, SpaceX Still on Top as Commercial Launches Continue to

BryceTech, an analytics and engineering business offering market intelligence solutions to the technology industries, released its Q1 report on the launch and satellite deployment market. After a whopping 502 spacecraft deployed on just 11 rockets, it's hardly a surprise to see SpaceX top the charts. What is great to see is a few new names on the list, like New Zealand's Rocket Lab and Astra Space.

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## Kepler Communications Successfully Complete Inter-Satellite Links on LEO Platform

NewSpace connectivity provider, Kepler Communications, successfully tested their inter-satellite link technology with a terminal designed to work with their Aether satellite network. Having launched on a Falcon 9 earlier this year, this in-orbit technology test is a fantastic step forwards for the Canadian company.

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## Amazon Secure 83 Launches on Multiple Vehicles as it Steps up Efforts to Get Kuiper Project Off the Ground

Of all the mega-constellations projects out there right now, Project Kuiper is the one shrouded in the most secrecy. So, it was interesting this month that Amazon have announced securing up to 83 launches for their Kuiper satellites on Bezos owned Blue Origin's New Glenn, United Launch Alliance's Centaur and Arianespace's Ariane 6. As OneWeb has shown, the need for a diversified launch agreement is an important thing to consider so it is great to see Amazon securing these launches.

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## After Russia's Invasion of Ukraine, ESA Take a Strong Stance on Russian Involvement in a Number of Projects

Unfortunately, Russia's invasion of Ukraine seems unlikely to slow down any time soon and, as the world considers what further restrictions and sanctions can be imposed on the nation, the European Space Agency makes its thoughts clear. Having already suspended work with Russia on the ExoMars Mission, this month the agency has also announced that it will discontinue its cooperation on Luna-25, -26 and -27 due to the country's continued "aggression against Ukraine and the resulting sanctions put in place represent a fundamental change of circumstances and make it impossible for ESA to implement the planned lunar cooperation".

[Read article](#)

## Exotrail Announce Debut SpaceVan Mission Due to be Launched Late 2023

Space mobility operator, Exotrail, announce the debut mission for its new SpaceVan satellite deployment solution after putting pen to paper with SpaceX on a launch agreement. With the launch planned on a Falcon 9 rideshare before the end of 2023, the hope is that its first 3 planned missions will be complete in 2024.

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## Orbit Fab and Neutron Star Systems Partner On Satellite Refuelling Solutions

Orbit Fab and Neutron Star Systems announced a new partnership this month to further the development of green propellants and on-orbit satellite refuelling. As on-orbit servicing and refuelling solutions are becoming a reality, the push towards more green propellants will be absolutely integral in creating a more sustainable space industry.

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## Rocket Lab to Launch 34 Satellites on 26th Launch Before Catching 1st Stage With Helicopter

In what will be the 26th launch of its' Electron launch vehicle, Rocket Lab this month will launch 34 satellites for a number of companies, including the first satellites for Greg Wyler's new venture, E-Space. Dubbed "There and Back Again", the mission will move Rocket Lab one step closer to creating the first reusable smallsat launcher.

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