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Satellite & NewSpace Snapshot

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS - FEBRUARY 2024

February Snapshot: Partnerships, Funding and Innovation

Welcome to the February 2024 edition of Satellite and NewSpace Insights, where alongside the blooming daffodils, we witnessed significant breakthroughs in space exploration, including innovation, funding, and lunar landings!

This month, the space industry experienced remarkable progress in on-orbit servicing, the establishment of new standards by pioneering rockets, a historic lunar landing, and the achievement of record-breaking funding rounds. It's been a momentous start to 2024. Stay tuned as we delve into these transformative developments and unveil their impact on the future of space.

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Featured Companies

Astroscale

Hylmpulse

Intuitive Machines

Aldoria

SES

Unseenlabs

Varda Space

Arkadia Space

ClearSpace

Fancy a listen?



Astroscale's ADRAS-J Mission Starts Rendezvous Operations

Astroscale Japan initiates rendezvous operations for its ADRAS-J mission, maneuvering towards a client orbit using careful planning and propulsion systems. Rendezvous and proximity operations (RPO) are vital for future on-orbit servicing, demonstrated by ADRAS-J's approach to space debris. Astroscale Japan pledges updates, promoting on-orbit servicing and sustainable space practices. #ShowtheWayADRASJ.

[Read article](#)

The HyImpulse SR75 rocket is prepared, ready and en-route to Australia for Germany's first private Newspace rocket launch

HyImpulse's SR75 rocket begins its journey to Southern Australia for its inaugural launch, featuring a hybrid engine using solid paraffin for safer logistics and reduced costs. The innovative propulsion system allows for full pre-fueling during transport, simplifying processes and setting new standards in the space industry.

[Read article](#)

Intuitive Machines Successfully Lands on Lunar Surface

Intuitive Machines achieves a historic milestone by soft-landing its IM-1 mission's lunar lander, Odysseus, at the moon's South Pole, marking the first commercial soft landing on the moon and the US's first in 51 years. The success underscores NASA's commercial partnerships and advances lunar exploration efforts through its CLPS initiative.

[Read article](#)

Aldoria and SES partner of satellite Conjunction Alert Service

Aldoria partners with SES on a three-month project to enhance satellite safety through a conjunction alert service, starting March 1, 2024. The service provides satellite operators with advanced tools for tracking satellites and receiving timely collision risk alerts, aiming to set new standards in tracking capabilities and benefit SES with more accurate data.

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Unseenlabs Announces a Record-breaking Fundraising of €85 Million

UnseenLabs, a French maritime surveillance company, closes an €85 million fundraising round, one of the largest in the space industry. Investors include Supernova Invest, Isalt via its Strategic Transition Fund, and Unexo, along with existing partners like 360 Capital, Bpifrance, and S2G Ventures, signaling global interest in Earth observation.

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Varda Space Industries finally gets approval to bring its drug manufacturing spacecraft back to Earth

Varda Space Industries receives regulatory approval to return its Winnebago spacecraft to Earth after months of limbo. Scheduled to land on February 21 at the Utah Test and Training Range, the capsule carries pharmaceutical crystals manufactured in orbit, marking a milestone in space manufacturing and regulatory compliance.

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Arkadia Space announces the closure of its 2.8M€ Seed round

Arkadia Space, a specialised Spanish space company focusing on chemical propulsion systems for spacecraft and satellites, announced the conclusion of a €2.8 million Seed funding cycle from a blend of private and public funding sources.

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ClearSpace wins UKSA In-orbit Satellite Refueling Contract

ClearSpace has secured a contract with the UK Space Agency to explore the feasibility of in-orbit satellite refueling through the REFUEL.ME study, running until September 2024. This initiative aims to extend satellite lifetimes, reduce space debris, and enhance space sustainability. The project underscores the UK's commitment to pioneering in-orbit servicing technologies for more efficient and sustainable space operations.

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