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Satellite & NewSpace Specialists

Satellite & NewSpace Snapshot

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS - NOVEMBER 2024

November Came and Went Faster Than an Asteroid, but That Didn't Stop News Soaring Across the Industry

In the month featuring the Payload Investment Summit, it's fitting to see an injection of funding scattering across the industry, reinforcing predictions for a stellar 2025.

From stock rising with strategic sales, to VCs continuing to pledge allegiance to space, to the US Airforce continuing to seek the support of space, this month was a whirlwind to be remembered.

In this issue:

[Shift in Strategy for Kepler Communications](#)

[US Airforce and Infinite Orbits to Partner for SDA Solutions](#)

Featured Companies

Firefly Aerospace

OneWeb

Spire Global

Slingshot Aerospace

SpaceX

Infinite Orbits

Amazon Kuiper

Kepler Communications

Fancy a listen?



\$175m Awarded to Firefly Aerospace in Series D Funding

Firefly Aerospace secured \$175M in Series D funding led by RPM Ventures, marking its first space investment, alongside Giant Leap Capital and Human Element. Under new CEO Jason Kim, Firefly is focusing on key projects: its Alpha rocket launch (2025), the Blue Ghost Moon lander (2024), and the Medium Launch Vehicle (2026). Firefly aims to enhance satellite launch capabilities while optimizing rocket performance for higher payload capacity.

[Read article](#)

Kepler to Buy Spire's Maritime Business for \$233.5M

Spire Global (\$SPIR) sold its maritime business to Kepler for \$233.5M, eliminating over \$118M in debt and becoming debt-free with \$100M on its balance sheet. The sale includes \$40M/year in maritime monitoring contracts, staff, and IP, while Spire retains satellite ownership. The deal follows financial struggles, including missed SEC filings and loan issues with Blue Torch Finance. Spire's stock rose 15%.

[Read article](#)

FCC to Update Rules for Non-Geostationary Satellite Spectrum Sharing

The update sets limits on interference: 3% time-weighted throughput degradation and 0.4% increase in short-term unavailability. Companies like SpaceX, Kuiper, and OneWeb provided input, with OneWeb opposing the 3% limit. Analysts suggest the rules favour larger constellations like Starlink, allowing more satellites and higher power operations, fostering competition while protecting incumbents.

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\$13.3M Awarded by the Office of Space Commerce for Slingshot Aerospace

The contract was awarded by NOAA to design the user interface for its Traffic Coordination System for Space (TraCSS), aiding satellite operators in collision avoidance. Based on Slingshot Beacon software, the system will provide tools for tracking satellites, managing debris, and coordinating manoeuvres.

Launching in late 2024, TraCSS will support US and allied operators while paving the way for enhanced AI-driven autonomy.

[Read article](#)

US Airforce and Infinite Orbits to Partner for SDA Solutions

Infinite Orbits' U.S. affiliate secured a \$1.25M AFWERX SBIR Direct-to-Phase II contract to develop a geostationary Space Domain Awareness (SDA) solution for the U.S. Air Force. Partnering with the Air Force Research Laboratory, the project aims to tackle key defence challenges. CEO Adel Haddoud highlights this milestone as a gateway for expanding U.S. operations and advancing in-orbit servicing capabilities.

[Read article](#)

Shift in Strategy for Kepler Communications

Kepler filed with the FCC to consolidate its satellite constellation, transitioning to an optical data relay network. The updated plan includes 10 satellites launching in late 2025, incorporating advanced optical and edge computing technologies, with larger, propulsion-equipped satellites for sustainability. The shift aligns with modern demands, enhancing Kepler's Internet services in space and supporting projects with NASA, ESA, and SDA for cutting-edge connectivity.

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