



Amy Saunders
Editor

Happy holidays!

I can't believe it's this time of year again – Thanksgiving and Christmas are upon us, and we've successfully navigated our way through another twelve months.

It's been a pretty big year for the space sector. SpaceX has launched a Tesla Roadster with the 'Starman' mannequin into space during a Falcon Heavy test flight; the company faced some pretty big stock dives in the second half of the year, although successfully launched its Falcon 9 from the West Coast of the USA for the first time in October. The International Space Station (ISS) sprung a leak in September – at the time of going to press, no cause has been confirmed. Meanwhile, a Japanese team has taken another step forwards in the push for a space elevator with the launch of a new experiment to the ISS. In other news, the RemoveDEBRIS mission, which will explore methods for tackling space debris, reportedly captured its first piece of space debris back in September, using a space net. Richard Branson made the news in October with the claim that Virgin Galactic is just weeks away from its first trip into space, bringing his company's planned space tourism business that one step closer to reality. And at the end of the year, China announced plans to launch an artificial illumination satellite that will shine some eight times brighter than the moon, reportedly to reduce the cost of streetlights.

All in all, it's been a busy year. At *Satellite Evolution*, we've kept ourselves occupied attending all the major trade shows, catching up on the latest news and developments with anyone who's anyone in the space sector, and making sure to keep our readers up-to-date on technologies, trends and analysis. As always, we welcome feedback from our readers on any topics they'd like to hear more about, or any new projects they've been working on.

If you've been keeping your eyes peeled, you'll also have noticed the launch of our new sister publication, *NewSpace International*, back in March. With this new publication, we've expanded our focus beyond the traditional satellite sector to keep abreast of current NewSpace developments; small satellites, mega-constellations, asteroid mining, additive manufacturing, space tourism, etc. The NewSpace industry is deeply intertwined with the satellite sector, and we're really looking forward to seeing how it develops in the years to come.

As the proverb goes - which can apparently be traced back to 1659 - all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. We've all worked hard for the last year, and it's time for a break to refresh ourselves, and start over again in 2019. So, from all the team at *Satellite Evolution*, we wish you a Happy Holidays!

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