

QUARTERLY REVIEW OF GLOBAL PRIVATE INVESTMENT

# SERAPHIM SPACE INDEX

Q1 2025



SERAPHIM

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The SpaceTech sector kicked 2025 off with a steady flow of investment, in line with the quarterly average seen in 2024. Total funding over the trailing twelve months (TTM) reached \$8.1bn - reflecting a 12% y-o-y increase from \$7.2bn in the TTM to Q1 2024.

Continuing the trend of recent quarters, investment activity remained focused on capital-intensive sectors such as space hardware and infrastructure, launch services, and satellites. The largest deal of the quarter was secured by Stoke Space, which raised a \$260m Series C round.

Once again, investments were heavily concentrated in US companies, which attracted 59% of total capital deployed during the quarter. In contrast, Chinese companies accounted for just 8% of investment, with no individual deal exceeding \$100m.

Seed-stage deals dominated the quarter by number, accounting for approximately 55% of deal count. In terms of investment amount, most of the capital was raised at the Series B and Series C rounds, while less was allocated to Series D+, in line with previous quarters.

This quarter marked several historic firsts for the SpaceTech sector. On March 30th, German startup Isar Aerospace carried out the first-ever orbital launch attempt by a commercial entity from continental Europe. Earlier in the month, on March 2nd, Firefly Aerospace became the first commercial company in history to achieve a fully successful soft landing on the Moon - following Intuitive Machines' mission last year, which reached the Moon, but the landing was unsuccessful.

Publicly listed US SpaceTech companies retreated after a strong performance during the previous quarter, following the market uncertainty that has dominated since the new US administration took over. In contrast European space businesses posted strong share price performances, driven by a general commitment to increase European defence spending. The year also started on an encouraging note for IPO activity, with Karman Space & Defence going public in February and Voyager Space announcing its intention to IPO. However, the recent tariffs announced by the US and the resulting risk of a trade war has put an end to IPOs for the time being.

While there is a lot of uncertainty in the market driven by a rapidly changing political and macroeconomic environment, we are encouraged by the underlying macrotrends driving the need for increased SpaceTech investment.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE QUARTER

**\$8.1BN**

invested in the **Trailing Twelve Months (TTM) to Q1 25**  
(\$7.2bn in TTM to Q1 24)

**\$2.1BN**

invested in **Q1 25** (\$1.8bn in Q4 24)

**578**

deals in **TTM to Q1 25** (439 in TTM to Q1 24)

**130**

deals in **Q1 25** (126 in Q4 24)

**\$260M**

biggest deal closed in **Q1 25** (Stoke Space)

**\$24M**

average deal size in **Q1 25** (\$21m in Q4 24)

**\$7.2M**

median deal size in **Q1 25** (\$8.0m Q4 24)

**Space: To IPO or Not?:** Public markets in 2025 began on a high note, buoyed by falling interest rates and optimism over a more deal-friendly regulatory climate under President Donald Trump, generating some modest IPO activity both within and beyond the space sector. In January, Voyager filed for an IPO in the US; the company is leading the development of Starlab, a private space station, in collaboration with Airbus, Mitsubishi, and MDA. A month later, Karman Space & Defence, specializing in the design, testing, manufacturing, and sale of mission-critical systems for missile defence and space programs, went public on the NYSE. However, early momentum is now fading as the US' new tariffs spark uncertainty.

**Potential US Budget Cuts:** The Trump administration and Elon Musk-led DOGE has prompted a cut in spending on science-related space programs, including those from the National Science Foundation (which fund most of the US' astronomy efforts) and NASA. NASA recently cancelled contracts worth \$420m in areas like climate research and lunar studies. The agency also began downsizing, cutting around two dozen jobs across three offices, with hundreds more expected. Meanwhile, the US Space Force has proposed an \$800m budget reduction for fiscal year 2025.

**Investor Attention Turns to Europe's Space Sector:** As the US reassesses its long-standing role as the linchpin of global security, amid growing calls for allies to shoulder more responsibility, Europe has felt the need to step up. In response, the European Commission has proposed an €800bn initiative aimed at enhancing defence capabilities and resilience across the European bloc. This move has fuelled significant rallies in European defence and space stocks, with companies like Eutelsat and Leonardo surging 93% and 73% respectively during the quarter.

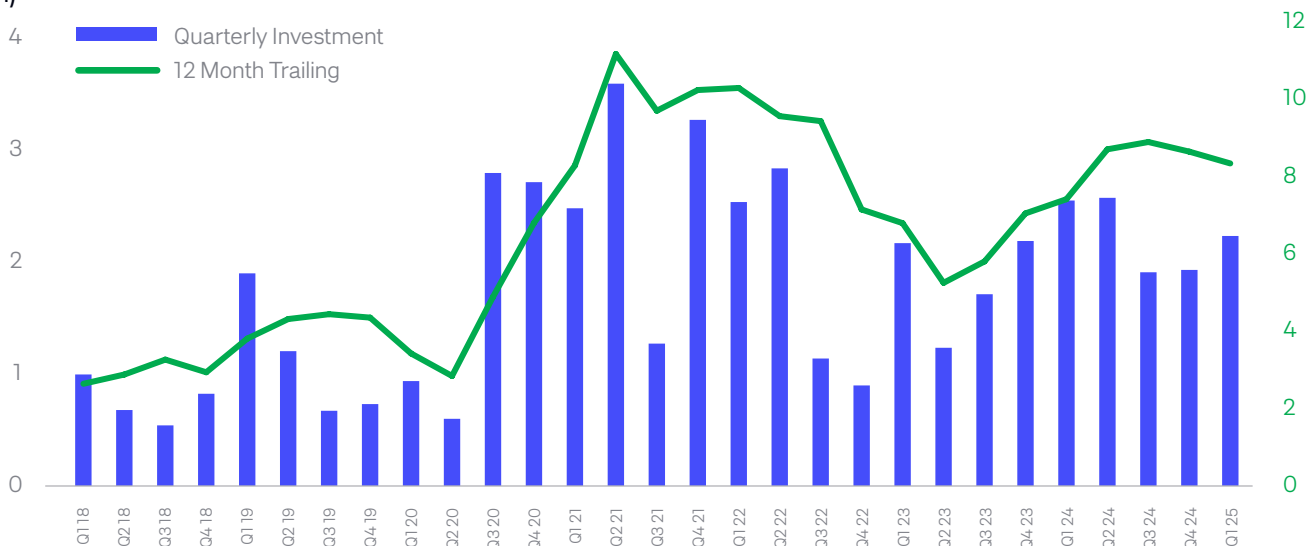
In a bid to tap into Europe's growing market and diversify globally, some US space companies have announced international expansion. AST SpaceMobile recently announced a partnership with British company Vodafone and plans to establish a satellite production facility in Barcelona, Spain. In a similar vein, Rocket Lab acquired German laser communications firm Mynaric.

**Isar Aerospace Inaugural Launch:** On March 30th, German startup Isar Aerospace conducted the inaugural flight of its Spectrum rocket from Norway's Andøya Spaceport. The test rocket crashed into the nearby sea 30 seconds after taking off, caused by a loss of attitude control. Although the rocket did not reach space, the mission marked the first orbital launch attempt by a commercial entity from continental Europe and provided enough data to inform and improve subsequent launches. This launch also represents a significant step in Europe's efforts to establish independent access to space. Isar Aerospace has raised over €400m to date since its founding in 2018 and plans to produce up to 40 Spectrum rockets annually in the future.

**Firefly Aerospace Successful Lunar Mission:** Firefly Aerospace successfully achieved its first lunar landing (and second-ever by a private company) with the Blue Ghost spacecraft. The 2 two-week mission will analyse lunar regolith, study the Moon's geophysical properties, and capture high-definition images of lunar phenomena. About the size of a compact car, Blue Ghost landed near an ancient volcanic vent in Mare Crisium, a vast basin located in the northeastern part of the Moon's Earth-facing side. Firefly's Blue Ghost Mission 2 is expected to launch next year, where it will aim to land on the far side of the Moon.

## INVESTMENT OVERVIEW

### Seraphim Quarterly Investment Tracker (\$bn)



Q1 '25 saw a consistent influx of capital into the space sector, totalling \$2.1bn. This is in line with average quarterly investment across 2024.

## Seraphim Trailing 12 Months (TTM) Investment Activity Index (Q1 2018 = 100)



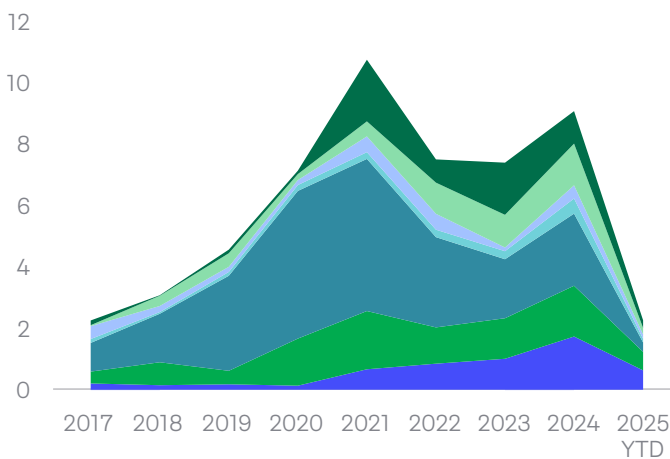
The Seraphim Space Index is a barometer of investment activity, showing the global volume and value of venture capital deals within the Space sector on a 12-month trailing basis, indexed against Q1 2018.

SpaceTech continues to significantly outperform general VC investment, which has remained stagnant following the pullback in light of economic uncertainty through 2022 and has shown little sign of recovery since.

## DATA LIFECYCLE

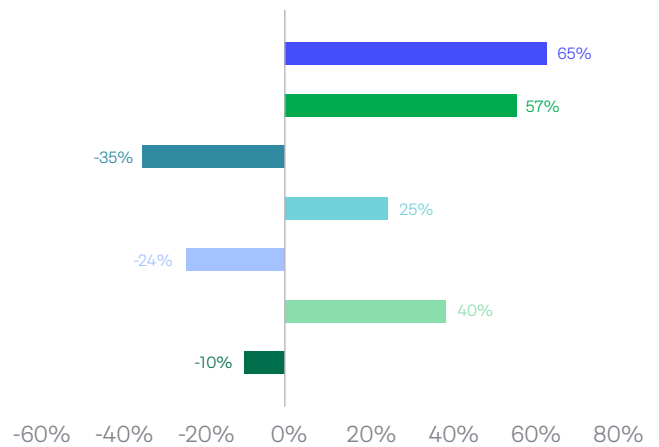
Legend: Beyond Earth (Dark Green), Product (Light Green), Analyse (Blue), Downlink (Cyan), Platform (Dark Blue), Launch (Green), Build (Purple)

### Annual Investment (\$bn)



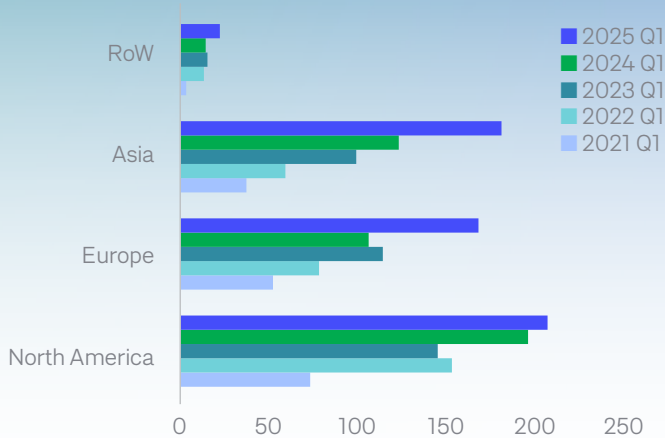
Total investment in the trailing twelve months (TTM) to Q1 was up by 12% against TTM to Q1 2024. The increase was primarily driven by strong performances in the Build, Launch, and Product segments. Notably, most of the top 10 deals of the quarter came from these three categories. This includes Stoke Space's \$260m Series C and Loft Orbital's \$170m Series C, the two largest investment rounds within the quarter.

### Investment, TTM to Q1 2025 vs Q1 2024 (% Change)



The Platforms segment saw the steepest decline; however, the previous quarter included the \$1bn investment in Shanghai Satellite Technology to finance the rollout of a Chinese LEO satellite communications constellation.

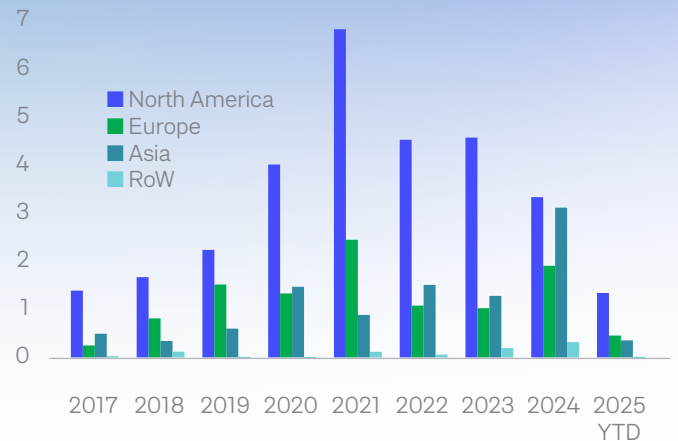
## Number of Deals (TTM to Q1)



North America maintained its leadership position in the TTM to Q1 2025, recording 207 deals. Asia continues to steadily narrow the gap and has once again surpassed Europe, with 181 deals compared to Europe's 168.

Notably, in Q1 2025, Asia surpassed North America for the first time in terms of quarterly deal count, recording 45 deals versus North America's 44.

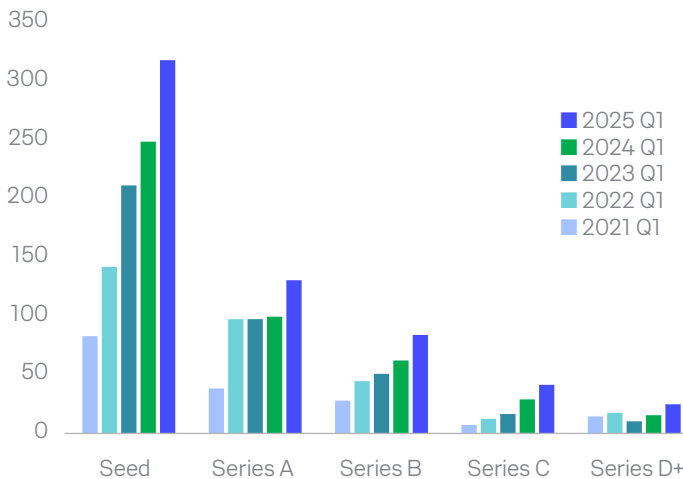
## Investment By Region (\$bn)



Q1 2025 investments in North America saw a significant q-o-q increase, rising by 83%. This growth was driven by both a higher number and larger size of deals - four transactions exceeded \$100m, compared to two in the previous quarter, with the largest reaching \$260m (up from \$175m last quarter). In contrast, Asia experienced a sharp decline of approximately 95% q-o-q, largely due to the absence of large deals, with no transactions over \$100m recorded in Q1 2025.

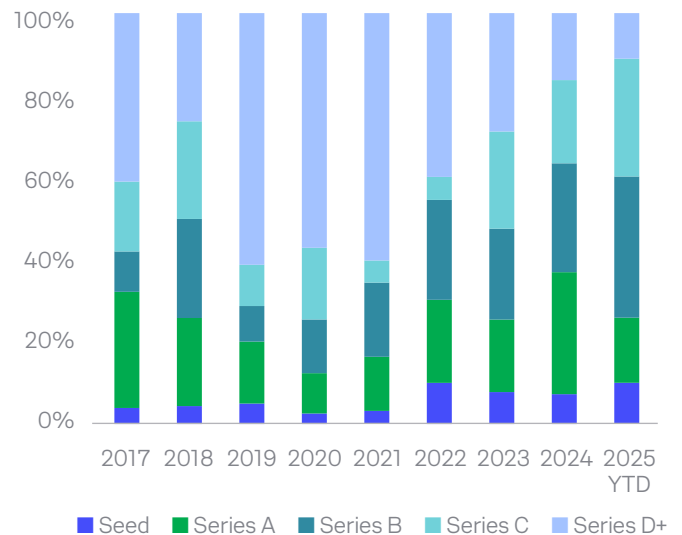
# STAGE OF INVESTMENT ANALYSIS

## Number of Deals (TTM to Q1)



Seed deals continued to dominate the investment landscape, with a y-o-y increase of approximately 30%. Series A rounds also saw a rebound in activity, growing by around 30% y-o-y after remaining flat for the past three years. However, it was the later-stage rounds that experienced the most significant growth: Series B increased by approximately 35%, Series C by 45%, and Series D+ by 60% y-o-y. This indicates a renewed interest from growth investors and therefore a belief in the commercial opportunity.

## Investment Concentration (\$bn)



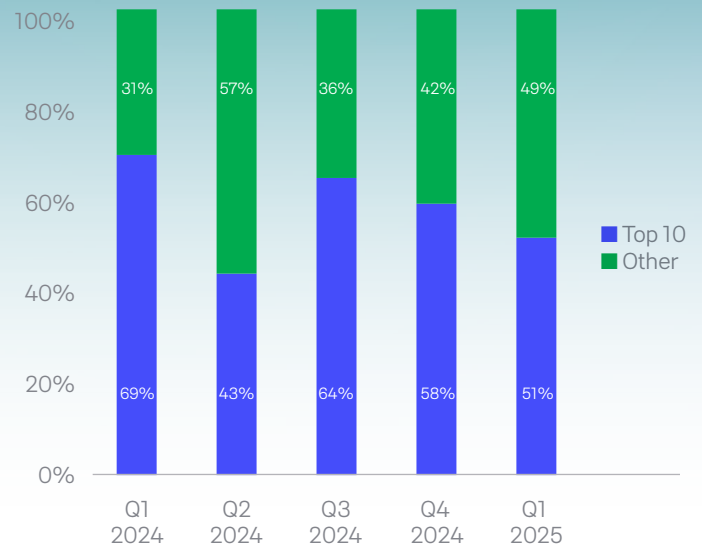
In line with trends observed over the past few years, a decreasing share of overall investment (now around 10%) was allocated to the most mature companies (Series D+). The majority of capital was concentrated in Series B (c.35%) and Series C (c.30%) rounds. Series A accounted for a smaller portion of total investments compared to the previous year, making up roughly 15% in Q1 2025, down from about 30% in 2024.

## Q1 2025 Top Deals

Relative to previous quarters, there was a lower concentration of investment in the top 10 deals this quarter, driven by a smaller number of standout rounds.

Notably, only two companies in the top 10 were at the late-stage (Series D+), with the majority of capital deployed across Series B and C. This reflects continued investor appetite for high-quality businesses in their early growth stages, as they seek to back the most promising companies.

As in previous periods, investment was primarily directed toward capital-intensive sectors, particularly those operating physical space infrastructure. Zeitview was the only top 10 company that does not directly build or operate hardware. There was also a notable skew toward US-based deals in Q1, though we don't read too much into this shift. The prior quarter featured a strong showing from European companies like The Exploration Company, ICEYE, and ALL.SPACE.



COMPANY	COUNTRY	DATA LIFECYCLE	SUB CATEGORY	STAGE	AMOUNT (\$m)
<b>Stoke Space</b>	US	Launch	Rockets	Series C	\$260m
<b>Loft Orbital</b>	US	Build	Space Hardware	Series C	\$170m
<b>K2 Space</b>	US	Build	Space Hardware	Series B	\$110m
<b>Axiom Space</b>	US	Beyond Earth	Space Infrastructure	Series D+	\$100m
<b>Lynk Global</b>	US	Platforms	Satellites - Telecoms	Series B	\$85m
<b>Sateliot</b>	Spain	Platforms	Satellites - IoT Networks	Series B	\$75m
<b>Castellion</b>	US	Launch	Rockets	Series A	\$70m
<b>Deep Blue Aerospace</b>	China	Launch	Rockets	Series B	\$69m
<b>Zhongke Satellite</b>	China	Platforms	Satellites - Earth Observation	Series A	\$69m
<b>Zeitview</b>	US	Analyse	Satellites - Earth Observation	Series D+	\$60m

## CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK

Q1 2025 opened with a continued steady flow of capital into the space sector, with \$2.1bn in investment, very much in line with the quarterly average throughout 2024. On a trailing twelve-month basis, space investment reached \$8.1bn, a strong recovery to nearly 75% of the 2021–2022 peak. In comparison, general VC remains subdued, hovering at just 45% of its prior highs.

A high proportion of capital this quarter was directed toward Series B and C rounds. This marks a notable transition from the 2019–2022 period, when late-stage mega-rounds dominated, particularly into established players like SpaceX and OneWeb. The current trend suggests growing investor appetite to identify and back the next cohort of breakout space companies.

US-listed space companies experienced significant corrections amid broader market turbulence. Investors reacted to an escalating trade war and newly introduced tariffs, leading to sharp revaluations across the sector. Rocket Lab and Redwire, both of which posted impressive gains of over 150% in Q4 2024, saw

notable pullbacks during this quarter. Despite the volatility, we expect heightened focus on supply chain security to drive investor interest in domestic infrastructure.

European defence and space primes rallied on the back of expanded EU budgets and a renewed focus on strategic autonomy. We anticipate these same drivers will fuel investor interest in domestic startups positioned to deliver sovereign capabilities across space and defence

While Q1 didn't see any major Chinese deals, we view this as a temporary lull. We expect to continue to see large investment in high-capex businesses as China advances its commercial space ecosystem to compete more directly with the US in launch, manufacturing and satellite communications.

Looking ahead, we expect space investment to remain resilient through the remainder of 2025, supported by strong strategic tailwinds. While volatility and geopolitical tensions may continue to create short-term noise, particularly around public market valuations, investor appetite for defence, infrastructure, and manufacturing is at all-time highs, driven by national security priorities.

## VC FUNDS + RESEARCH + ACCELERATOR

### **Our Model:** Inception to exit support powered by smart capital

Seraphim is the world's leading specialist investor in SpaceTech.

Powered by smart capital from leading Space companies and government agencies, we have a unique model combining investment funds, accelerators, and an angel investor platform.

We use our panoptic view of the SpaceTech ecosystem to provide inception to exit support to the sector's most ambitious and fearless entrepreneurs as they aspire to harness the infinite potential of Space to help push the boundaries of what is currently possible by turning science fiction into science fact.

Seraphim Space Investment Trust Plc is listed on the London Stock Exchange (Ticker: SSIT)

### **Our Focus:** Businesses collecting & communicating data from above

We are focused exclusively on the multi \$trillion SpaceTech investment market.

We believe SpaceTech is at the nexus of mega-trends that will define societal change over forthcoming decades and has a unique role to play in addressing the world's most pressing problems.

Radical advances in the Space sector mean a data and connectivity tsunami is about to transform the world as we know it, driving the next major paradigm shift in the global economy.

We invest in companies that are enabling, generating and exploiting data being collected and communicated from above.



**Mark Boggett**  
CEO



**James Bruegger**  
CIO



**Rob Desborough**  
General Partner  
Chairman Seraphim  
Accelerator

## Methodology & Taxonomy

We use a wide range of different data sources to compile our investment tracker. This includes proprietary, off-market information from our deal flow and network, deal databases such as Crunchbase, industry news sources such as SpaceNews and TechCrunch, and public announcements from companies themselves. We only include third party capital invested on an arm's length basis and therefore do not include personal investment that the likes of Jeff Bezos may make in their own space initiatives.



### BUILD

- Building & selling satellites, autonomous systems
- Components, sub-systems, complete systems
- Hardware (sensors), software (i.e. control system), hybrid (i.e. machine vision)



### LAUNCH

- Building & launching rockets
- Launch-related services



### PLATFORM

- Any data collection / space platform (i.e. smallsat, HAPs)
- Multi-modal: look, listen, communicate



### DOWNLINK

- Facilitate transmission of data from space / aerial platform back down to earth
- Satcoms & terrestrial comms networks
- Data storage, processing, security



### ANALYZE

- Analysis of data from space / aerial platforms
- A.I / machine learning enabled analytics



### PRODUCT

- Packaging of different data streams (space & non space)
- Tailored to specific use cases in specific verticals
- Location, monitoring, insight, mapping



### BEYOND EARTH

- In-Space infrastructure (i.e. Space stations)
- In-Space services (i.e. Satellite refuelling, servicing and repair)
- Utilising the microgravity environment for R&D and manufacturing

## Current Portfolio

We are the most prolific investor in SpaceTech globally. Across our different activities, we currently have a portfolio of more than 100 of the world's leading SpaceTech start-ups.

### Fund

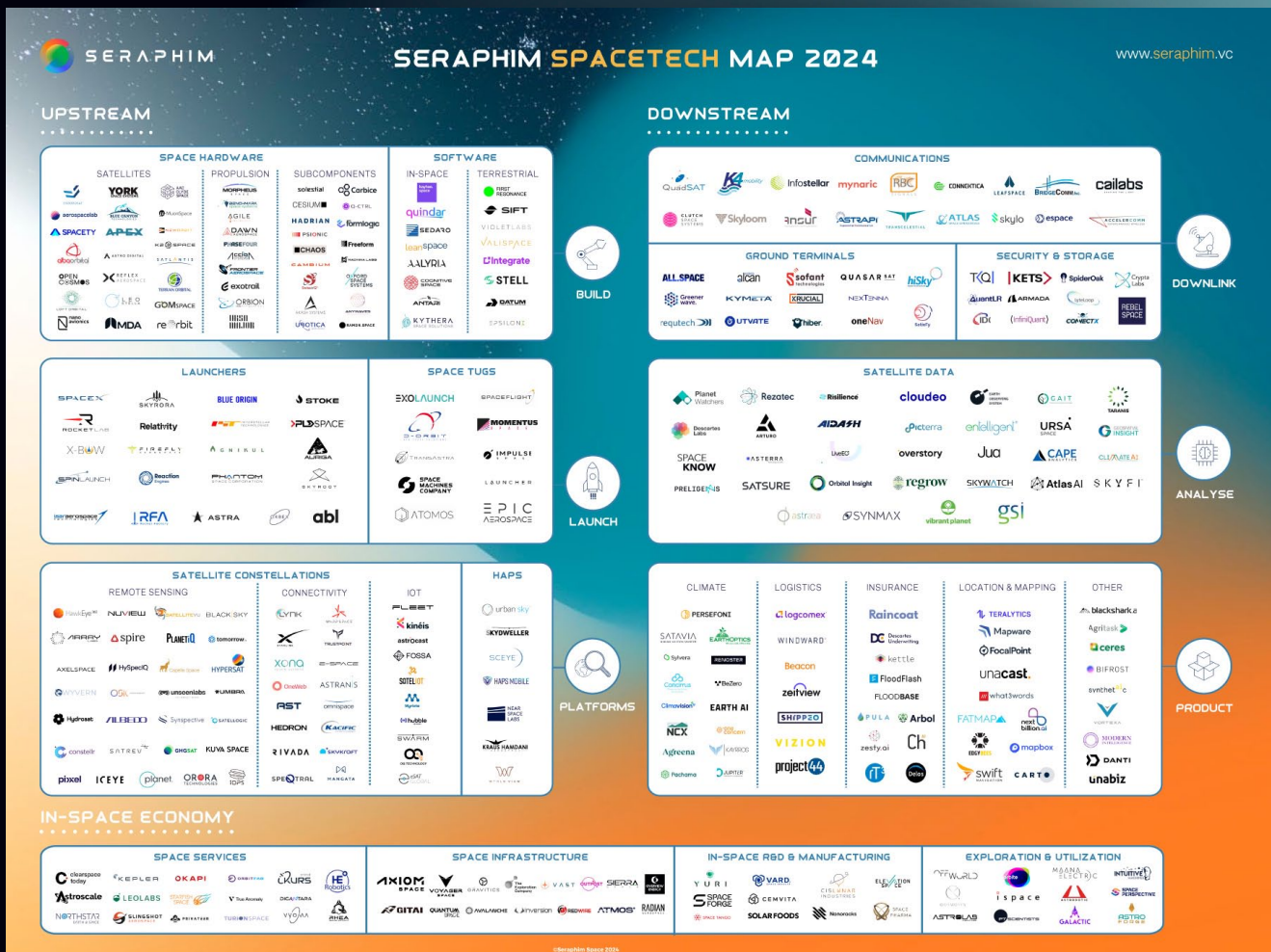


### Accelerator





We routinely publish our own research and insights on our website with a view to helping other investors share our excitement for the multi-decade transformational potential of Spacetech. Key periodic research we publish includes our widely recognised SpaceTech Ecosystem and Smallsat Constellation market maps.



## SERAPHIM SPACETECH ECOSYSTEM MAP 2024

Global VC backed emerging leaders per category.



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