

D-Orbit Secures €119.6M Contract with ESA to enter the In-Orbit Servicing market in GEO

The contract solidifies D-Orbit's lead role in advancing Europe's commercial in-orbit servicing capabilities.

Milan, Italy, October 14, 2024: [D-Orbit](#), a global leader in space logistics, announced today, at the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in Milan, **the signing of a €119.6 million contract with the [European Space Agency \(ESA\)](#) under the Space Safety programme.**

The contract establishes a robust, space-proven, commercial-grade in-orbit servicing infrastructure in Europe. As part of the initiative, **D-Orbit is developing, launching and demonstrating the capabilities of a vehicle designed to rendezvous with, dock with, and take over the attitude and orbit control functions of another spacecraft** for purposes including life extension, relocation, repair, disposal, and more.

A key aspect of this contract is **the development of GEA, an innovative satellite platform designed to demonstrate in-orbit servicing capabilities** in geostationary orbit (GEO). This project is supported by the **Italian government through the Italian Space Agency (ASI)**, which recognizes the strategic potential of in-orbit servicing for the Italian space industry. This effort, along with Italy's commitment to leading space industry innovation, has been strengthened by the critical contributions of several other space agencies, and governments, including the **UK Space Agency (UKSA), the German Aerospace Center (DLR), the Swiss Space Office (SSO), and the Agencia Espacial Española (AEE).**

Luca Rossetini, CEO of D-Orbit, commented *"Our collaboration with ESA and the support from the Italian government and the Italian Space Agency, along with our European partners, positions us at the forefront of pioneering in-orbit servicing. We are eager to embark on this ambitious project, of which the first mission, called RISE, will mark a new, extraordinary milestone for D-Orbit: the beginning of regular commercial services in geostationary orbit. We are confident in its potential to redefine possibilities within the space industry."*

"This contract with ESA truly represents a defining moment in D-Orbit's journey and in the evolution of space logistics," concluded **Stefano Antonetti, VP Business Development of D-Orbit.**

This collaborative project brings together key players from across Europe with diverse expertise and resources, underscoring D-Orbit's commitment to advancing space logistics and in-orbit servicing, which is set to play a crucial role in the Company's growth strategy.

This landmark achievement consolidates D-Orbit's leadership position in space logistics and emphasizes the growing importance of in-orbit servicing within the global space sector.

About D-Orbit

D-Orbit is a market leader in the space logistics and transportation services industry with a track record of space-proven services, technologies, and successful missions.

Founded in 2011, D-Orbit is the first company addressing the logistics needs of the space market. ION Satellite Carrier, for example, is a space vehicle that can transport satellites in orbit and release them individually into distinct orbital slots, reducing the time from launch to operations by up to 85% and the launch costs of an entire satellite constellation by up to 40%. ION can also accommodate multiple third-party payloads like innovative technologies developed by startups, experiments from research entities, and instruments from traditional space companies requiring a test in orbit. ION also can be rented for edge computing applications and space cloud services to provide satellite operators with storage capacity and advanced computing capabilities in orbit.

D-Orbit's roadmap includes becoming a relevant player in the in-orbit servicing market, which is forecasted to become one of the largest growing markets within the space sector.

With offices in Italy, Portugal, the UK, and a new US team which will focus on bus design and manufacturing, we are the first certified B-Corp space company in the world, pursuing business models that are profitable, friendly for the environment, and socially beneficial.

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