

## **D-Orbit UK and Orbit Fab Sign MoU to Explore In-Orbit Servicing Collaboration**

*The partnership aims to advance satellite refueling capabilities  
and promote UK-EU space industry cooperation*

**Harwell, United Kingdom, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024:** **D-Orbit UK**, the United Kingdom-based division of space logistics company [D-Orbit](#), announced today, during the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in Milan, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with [Orbit Fab](#), a global company specializing in in-space refueling systems for satellites. This collaboration aims to explore opportunities in on-orbit satellite servicing and to foster connections between UK and European space industries.

The MoU outlines areas of potential collaboration aimed at promoting shared objectives for expanding orbital economy capabilities and focuses on different areas of cooperation.

A first area explores **the utilization of D-Orbit's vehicle fleet to potentially expand Orbit Fab's orbital refueling architecture**. This includes examining potential applications for future D-Orbit IOS platforms as a fuel depot in various orbits; investigating use cases for ION Satellite Carrier, D-Orbit's orbital transfer vehicle (OTV) for last-mile delivery, hosted payloads, and in-space transportation; and considering D-Orbit's small satellite bus for possible future Orbit Fab missions.

A second area focuses on the **potential integration of Orbit Fab refueling technologies in D-Orbit's product line and to extend satellite lifetimes**. Key areas include: studying the potential integration of Orbit Fab's RAFTI (Rapidly Attachable Fluid Transfer Interface) onto D-Orbit platforms; exploring concepts for refueling contracts for D-Orbit vehicles and customers; discussing possible financial and commercial products to facilitate refueling operations.

Lastly, part of the MoU is dedicated to **developing strategic activities** like joint promotional events, collaborative discussions with UK and European policymakers, knowledge sharing on developments and opportunities in the space sector, and joint proposals for UK and ESA institutions, leveraging the unique position of this collaboration.

*"The MoU with Orbit Fab represents an interesting step in our exploration of in-orbit servicing possibilities and reflects the UK's growing role in the global space economy," said **Stefano Antonetti, VP Business Development of D-Orbit**. "By examining how our space vehicle and robotic capabilities might complement Orbit Fab's refueling technology, we hope to uncover innovative approaches in the space industry. Moreover, this collaboration could help us explore ways to maintain strong links between EU and UK space industries as the in-orbit servicing market develops."*

As part of this MoU, D-Orbit UK and Orbit Fab will explore the **possibility of a joint demonstration mission** to showcase the potential of their complementary technologies. The results could inform future proposals to UK and ESA institutions.

**Daniel Faber, Orbit Fab CEO and co-founder**, said: *"Our agreement today with D-Orbit is an important next step to make a bustling in-orbit economy reality. A collaboration*

*between Orbit Fab's leading orbital refuelling services and D-Orbit's market-leading space logistics services will help both companies thrive. By signing this agreement with one of Europe's leading space logistics companies we are doubling down on our plans for future European missions."*

In-orbit servicing is an emerging field in the space industry, with potential applications in satellite life extension and space sustainability. This MoU allows both D-Orbit UK and Orbit Fab to explore opportunities in this developing 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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Learn more about D-Orbit at [www.dorbit.space](http://www.dorbit.space) and follow us on:

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### **About Orbit Fab**

Founded in 2018, Orbit Fab is an American startup based in Lafayette, Colorado, dedicated to developing in-space refueling systems for satellites. The company has demonstrated its fuel-transfer capabilities on the International Space Station and is set to launch its geostationary refueling service in 2025. Orbit Fab's innovative RAFTI system and its fuel depot satellites are designed to enhance satellite longevity and space sustainability.

<https://www.orbitfab.com/>