

## D-Orbit and Eutelsat to collaborate for RISE, ESA's new in-orbit servicing mission

*The leading satellite operator will play an active role in shaping service development, directly representing customer interests and offering critical, firsthand insights into the complex, real-world demands of satellite operations.*

**Washington D.C., March 11, 2025:** [D-Orbit](#), a global leader in space logistics, and [Eutelsat](#), one of the world's largest satellite operators, announced today the collaboration on **RISE**, a pioneering commercial in-orbit servicing mission that will demonstrate the **safe rendezvous and docking to a geostationary client satellite**. RISE is funded by the [European Space Agency](#) (ESA)'s [Space Safety programme](#), which is dedicated to protecting the Earth, its people, and critical infrastructure from natural and human-made threats from space. D-Orbit is developing, launching and demonstrating the capabilities of **GEA**, an innovative vehicle designed to demonstrate **in-orbit servicing capabilities** including rendezvous with, dock with, and take over the attitude and orbit control functions of another spacecraft in **Geostationary Orbit (GEO)** for purposes like **life extension, relocation, repair, and disposal**.

The collaboration with Eutelsat marks a key step in transforming this cutting-edge technology into a **commercially viable service for satellite operators** worldwide. As a key player in the satellite communications industry, Eutelsat will represent the **customer side of the service development**, providing valuable insight into the real-world needs of satellite operators. By joining D-Orbit and ESA in this initiative, Eutelsat will help bring **the first European life extension service** to the market, setting the stage for future commercial offerings.

*"We are thrilled to collaborate with Eutelsat on this groundbreaking mission," said **Stefano Antonetti, D-Orbit VP Business Development and Institutional Sales**. "Eutelsat's deep expertise in GEO satellite operations is invaluable to shaping a service that is not only technologically advanced but also aligned with the operational needs of satellite operators. This collaboration brings us one step closer to offering a commercial solution for **End-of-Life (EoL)** operations, including extending satellites' lifespan and completing disposal activities."*

*"Eutelsat has a long heritage in completing GEO satellite end-of-mission operations in line with national and international best practices for responsible management of the space environment," said **Arlen Kassighian, Eutelsat Group Chief Engineering Officer**. "We welcome this opportunity to participate in the RISE mission with D-Orbit, which will demonstrate an additional option for us to successfully manage EoL activities in line with our commercial needs and our regulatory obligations."*

The RISE mission was first announced in October 2024, with a **€119 million contract awarded by ESA**. The announcement was followed by the closing of a **€150 million Series C funding round**, securing D-Orbit with the financial resources needed to advance the development and launch of the mission.

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 \(AEE\)](#).

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.

The RISE mission is expected to launch in 2028. Once GEA successfully demonstrates its performance, D-Orbit will begin offering **commercial life extension services** for geostationary satellites, with an anticipated mission duration of eight years.

This landmark achievement, coupled with the success of **16 missions** flown by its orbital Transfer Vehicle, **ION Satellite Carrier**, reinforces D-Orbit's leadership in space logistics and highlights the growing importance of in-orbit servicing in the 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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