



D-Orbit and EPFL Spacecraft Team Sign Hosted Payload Agreement

The mission will test and validate the HOBC onboard computer developed at the Swiss Institute of Technology – Lausanne (EPFL)

Fino Mornasco, Italy, September 20th, 2022: Space logistics and transportation company [D-Orbit](#) enters into an agreement with the [Spacecraft Team of the Swiss Institute École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne \(EPFL\)](#) for the **in-orbit demonstration (IOD) of the HOBC onboard computer** developed in-house by the students of the Spacecraft Team.

The IOD mission is part of the **CHESS project**, which aims at launching a constellation of two CubeSats to **analyze the Earth's atmosphere chemical composition and its evolution over time**. The two satellites will be placed in a circular and elliptical respectively orbit with a low perigee that will allow the spacecraft to “scoop” the higher layers of the atmosphere at the perigee and sample the exosphere at the apogee. The project is also **a proof-of-concept for low-cost probes to investigate extraterrestrial atmospheres in future planetary missions**.

*“We are happy to collaborate with a major academic institution like EPFL,” said **Renato Panesi, D-Orbit’s Chief Commercial Officer (CCO)**. “As a company, we believe in supporting higher education initiatives. With this mission, we are offering EPFL Spacecraft Team an opportunity to de-risk their project while giving students the excitement and experience of going through a real launch campaign.”*

The payload will be integrated inside **ION Satellite Carrier**, D-Orbit’s proprietary orbital transfer vehicle, which allows the rapid integration of proprietary and third-party payloads through a standardized plug-and-play mechanical, electrical, and data interface. Testing and validation will be performed on a mid-inclination orbit.

*“This project marks an important milestone for our association and the EPFL!”, said **Aziz Belkhiria, president of the Spacecraft Team**. “Through this mission, our students have the opportunity to experience the full life cycle of a space project, from concept generation to launch, in a short amount of time. We are now aiming at performing multiple IODs for our components and building a flight heritage before the final launch of CHESS.”*

The EPFL Spacecraft Team aims at stimulating the Swiss space ecosystem with complex educational projects involving university students. Besides training the next generation of space engineer students to conduct innovative space projects, the initiative fosters the creation of stronger links between academy and industry to impact scientific research and the space ecosystem.

The launch is scheduled in **Q1 2023**.

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. The whole, fully redundant ION 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.

D-Orbit has offices in Italy, Portugal, the UK, and the US; its commitment to pursuing business models that are profitable, friendly for the environment, and socially beneficial, led D-Orbit S.p.A. to become the first certified B-Corp space company in the world.

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