D-Orbit Signs In-Orbit Validation Contract with Ensign-Bickford Aerospace & Defense Company (EBAD)

The mission will perform a debris-free non-pyrotechnical separation ring orbital test

Fino Mornasco, Italy, December 15, 2022: The space transportation and logistics company **D-Orbit** has signed a hosted payload contract with **Ensign-Bickford Aerospace & Defense Company (EBAD)** for the **in-orbit demonstration** (IOD) of its **NEA® 8'' Payload Release Ring**. Available in 8", 15" and 24" diameters, EBAD's separation system will be connected to a satellite simulator, which will be integrated within **ION Satellite Carrier**, D-Orbit's proprietary orbital transfer vehicle designed for launch and deployment, and in-orbit validation missions.

The test will be performed while ION will be operating in a **mid-inclination orbit with an altitude of 270km**. By releasing the simulator in proximity to the perigee, D-Orbit will ensure that it will **burn up into the atmosphere within four to eight weeks**. In fact, prior to raising ION's orbit, D-Orbit is able to perform experiments in very low earth orbit opening opportunities for a wide range of experiments and thus reducing the number of CubeSats that would otherwise remain in orbit for years after their experiment has concluded.

"*This is an extremely innovative mission profile for us*," said **Renato Panesi, D-Orbit's chief commercial officer (COO)**. "*Space debris mitigation has always been an important goal for us, so we are excited to work on an IOD mission that will free up the orbit almost immediately.*"

"This important mission will further demonstrate the versatility of the NEA® ultra-low shock release mechanism, by integrating the technology into a standard interface ring configuration," said **Geoff Kaczynski, EBAD's Vice President of Business Development & Strategy**. *"As a leader in spacecraft separation systems, EBAD continues to advance its separation technologies to meet the rapidly evolving needs of the space industry."*

The IOD is part of an experimental mission scheduled for **Q4 2022**, which will test ION's ability to operate and maneuver in an extremely low orbit. The flexibility of ION Satellite Carrier will allow EBAD to **reduce the time needed to qualify the device to less than six months from the signing of the IOD contract**. After qualification, the device will join EBAD's growing catalog of separation, release and deployment systems for the defense and space market.

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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