

## D-Orbit secures four multi-million contracts with ASI and ESA

*D-Orbit will work alongside several Italian excellencies on multiple contracts ranging from Earth observation to in orbit servicing for a total of approximately 60 million euros*

**Fino Mornasco, Italy, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023:** Space logistics and orbital transportation company [D-Orbit](#) secured **four multi-million contracts under the framework of Italy's National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR)**. These contracts represent a great opportunity to take part in national projects that will mark historic milestones the space sector and cooperate with some of the most renown and innovative Italian companies in the industry.

### IRIDE

**IRIDE is one of Europe's largest space programmes for Earth observation** initiated by the Italian government that will leverage national competencies and responsibility with the support of the [European Space Agency \(ESA\)](#), which will manage the project, and the [Italian Space Agency \(ASI\)](#). Under the **€26-million contract D-Orbit will provide one SAR (synthetic aperture radar) satellite and will manage its flight operations segment** on behalf of the end user; the deal also includes **an option for an additional SAR satellite, worth €24 million**. The SAR sensor will be implemented by [MetaSensing](#), an Italian company specializing in advanced radar technologies.

D-Orbit is also prime for the **“Optical Inter Satellite Link In Orbit Verification”** section of the IRIDE program. For this **€6-million contract**, D-Orbit will provide its orbital transfer vehicle, ION Satellite Carrier, **to test the Optical Inter-Satellite Link (OISL)**, a low power high performance laser communication technology applicable to fields like Earth imagery, weather forecasting, global telecommunications, and internet services. The OISL will be implemented by the Italian space technology startup [Stellar Project](#).

### IN-ORBIT SERVICING

D-Orbit is also part of the consortium of companies led by [Thales Alenia Space](#) that signed a €235 million contract with ASI for the first national **in-orbit servicing demonstration mission**. The contract has been assigned to a temporary consortium of Italian companies; alongside **Thales Alenia Space** (joint venture 67% Thales, 33% Leonardo) , which acts as prime contractor, the companies involved in the project are [Avio](#), [Leonardo](#), and [Telespazio](#) (joint venture 67% Leonardo, 33% Thales).

*“We are very proud to work alongside companies of this caliber” commented **Renato Panesi, D-Orbit Co-Founder and Chief Commercial Officer**, “and we are truly looking forward to contributing to this historical milestone for the national space industry.”*

The mission will include two satellites and the related ground operation segments and will carry out various in-orbit demonstrations ranging from close inspection, repositioning, refueling, and deorbiting of spacecraft, to assembly of infrastructures and satellites in orbit. **D-Orbit will manage all activities related to the target satellite platform, which is based on the company's proprietary ION platform, and to the refueling system, with the transfer of a fluid from the servicer satellite and the target satellite.**



## IN-ORBIT SPACE LAB

Finally, **D-Orbit won a contract of approximately €4.8 million with ASI for the In-Orbit Space Lab**, a laboratory with a space segment in low earth orbit (LEO) with multiple assets and applications distributed among different payloads/technologies and/or orbiting platforms, and an Earth segment based in the Matera Space Center.

The project will be funded by the Complementary Fund (national investment) under the PNRR for an amount of approximately 7 million euros, with the involvement of the industrial partnership composed of [Planetek Italia](#), D-Orbit, and [AIKO](#).

The prime contractor for the In-Orbit Space Lab is **Planetek Italia**, an Italian company specialized in geo-informatics, space solutions and Earth observation that will manage the integration of the entire system and of the software environment, which will include an innovative Space App Store; **AIKO**, a deep-tech company focusing on the development of Artificial Intelligence software to increase the level of autonomy of space missions, will take care of the mission automation through its onboard software for data processing and provide its cutting-edge on-board payload data processing products. **D-Orbit will be responsible for the manufacturing and launch of one ION Satellite Carrier**, which will then provide the orbital infrastructure needed to gather and elaborate data in orbit.

*"This is a fundamental step in building an orbiting edge computing platform" said **Stefano Antonetti, D-Orbit's VP Business Development and Institutional Sales.** "Our ION Satellite Carrier has been designed to be a key element of such an infrastructure and we're proud to work alongside our partners and the Italian Space Agency, whose brave vision is allowing this project to become a reality".*

The implementation of these projects perfectly fits within the commercial roadmap of the Company, providing an opportunity to test their existing solutions in new environments as well as speed up the development of new technologies.

## 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.



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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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