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press@deorbitaldevices.com

(+39) 05 547 4665

D-ORBIT Awarded €2 Million by Horizon 2020 - SME Instrument

One step further into the Final Frontier

The European Commission has awarded D-Orbit €2 million in the latest round of the Horizon 2020 SME Instrument program, allowing the Italian space startup to accelerate the introduction of their decommissioning device on the international market. The biggest EU Research and Innovation program will procure almost €80 billion between 2014 and 2020 to help leading companies breakthrough in a competitive market.

Having grown immensely in the past year, after closing several investment rounds, D-Orbit prepares for the next stage. The CEO, Luca Rossettini stresses the importance of this opportunity in offering competitive products to its customers while still complying with current regulations in terms of space debris mitigation, so to promote a profitable, durable and safe use of Space.

For D-Orbit, this recognition means increasing its internal resources, reducing go-to market times and laying a solid foundation for the next phase of the SME Instrument, in which we hope to have the possibility to see our product being utilized for any one of the institutional space missions promoted by the European Commission." States Mr. Rossettini. "Space is changing and the progressive shift towards a commercial use must go hand in hand with the reduction of costs and risks."

Among the numerous proposals submitted for the Space sector, D-Orbit was the sole winner within its category. The SME Instrument grant award will cover internal expenses to streamline and commercialize D₃, the decommissioning device that can safely and quickly remove spent launcher stages and inoperative satellites from orbit, guaranteeing an effective decrease of the space debris contamination of the most essential orbits.

D-Orbit Via Cavour, 2 | Lomazzo (CO), Italy

(+39) 02 3671 4010

www.deorbitaldevices.com

press@deorbitaldevices.com

VAT IT 07373150965