



ARIANESPACE AND D-ORBIT SIGN CONTRACT TO LAUNCH ION CUBESAT CARRIER ON VEGA SSMS POC FLIGHT

FINO MORNASCO – May 2nd, 2018: Arianespace and D-Orbit announced today the signature of an agreement to offer InOrbit NOW launch and deployment service through the launch of D-Orbit's ION CubeSat Carrier on the Vega launch vehicle, as part of the Small Spacecraft Mission Service (SSMS) Proof Of Concept flight (POC flight).

D-Orbit's ION CubeSat Carrier, a free flying CubeSat deployer and technology demonstrator, will be launched on Vega in 2019 from the Guiana Space Center, Europe's Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana. The CubeSat carrier will host several CubeSats to be deployed once in orbit.

D-Orbit's InOrbit NOW is a revolutionary launch and deployment service designed to transport CubeSats to space and release them into independent orbital slots.

Arianespace's launch contract with D-Orbit includes a significant number of CubeSats with an overall separated mass of about 100kg.

Positioned in a sun-synchronous orbit at 500 km, ION CubeSat Carrier will deploy the hosted CubeSats one by one along the orbit in precise orbital slots, according to customer's specifications. After the CubeSat deployment phase, which may last up to one month, ION CubeSat Carrier will initiate the in-orbit validation phase of payloads directly integrated on the platform.

The Vega proof of concept (POC) flight is the first mission of the Small Spacecraft Mission Service (SSMS), a program initiated by ESA in 2016, with the contribution of the European Commission. The purpose of the program is to perfectly address the promising microsatellites market for both institutional and commercial needs with a new rideshare concept on Vega.

Vega is part of the Arianespace launcher family, alongside the Ariane 5 heavy launcher and the Soyuz medium launcher, operated from the Guiana Space Center. Based in Colleferro, Italy, Avio is the industrial prime contractor for Vega.

This contract is a success for D-Orbit and the national space ecosystem after years of work and preparation led by ASI and performed by the Italian industry.

"We are proud to partner with Arianespace for our first InOrbit NOW mission," said Luca Rossettini, D-Orbit CEO. "The exponential growth of nanosatellite launch demand is just the beginning a new space era and a beneficial space economy. ION CubeSat Carrier is the first transportation vehicle for nanosats that expand the launch service to a sort of door-to-door delivery, and it is also the perfect platform for in-orbit demonstration and validation experiments. Nanosatellites are creating a convergence between innovative technology, space heritage, and commercial opportunities: the collaboration between D-Orbit and Arianespace will further this convergence."

"We are honored D-Orbit selected us to launch the InOrbit NOW payload on the Vega's Small Spacecraft Mission Service (SSMS) Proof of Concept flight. It is the first time our two companies have collaborated on a launch, and we fully plan to justify their confidence in us. Arianespace is proud to offer innovative launch solutions targeting the fast-growing smallsat market segment and enabling the success of CubeSat integrators and technology demonstrators. Our Vega is perfectly adapted to deliver for this promising market.," said Stephane Israël, CEO of Arianespace.



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D-Orbit

D-Orbit is a service provider for the traditional and new space sectors, with capabilities in satellite manufacturing, launch, deployment, satellite operations, end-of-life strategies and solutions, space propulsion and related critical software. Its products and services cover the entire lifecycle of a space mission, including mission analysis and design, engineering, manufacturing, integration, testing, launch, and end-of-life decommissioning. The firm is based in Milan, Italy, in Washington DC, United States, and Lisbon, Portugal.

Facebook: facebook.com/deorbitaldevices/

Twitter: twitter.com/D_Orbit

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/d-orbit/

Arianespace

Arianespace uses space to make life better on Earth by providing launch services for all types of satellites into all orbits. It has orbited more than 570 satellites since 1980, using its family of three launchers, Ariane, Soyuz and Vega, from launch sites in French Guiana (South America) and Baikonur, Kazakhstan. Arianespace is headquartered in Evry, near Paris, and has a technical facility at the Guiana Space Center, Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana, plus local offices in Washington, D.C., Tokyo and Singapore. Arianespace is a subsidiary of ArianeGroup, which holds 74% of its share capital, with the balance held by 17 other shareholders from the European launcher industry.

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