

SPACE SYSTEMS

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Airbus Defence and Space to lead TeSeR, next EU project to clean up space

- Airbus Defence and Space will lead team to prevent collisions with space debris

Airbus Defence and Space, the world's second largest space company, will lead the project TeSeR (Technology for Self-Removal of Spacecraft) team to develop technology to reduce the risk of spacecraft colliding with debris in space.

Together with its ten European partners, the company will develop a prototype for a cost-efficient and highly reliable module to ensure that future spacecraft don't present a collision risk once they reach the end of their nominal operational lifetimes or suffer an in-service failure. The module may also function as a removal back-up in the case of a loss of control over a spacecraft.

Airbus Defence and Space will act as the coordinator of the consortium and will be responsible for project management, technical coordination and the development of innovative attitude control systems.

Under Grant Agreement No 687295, part of the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, the TeSeR study programme will receive EU funding of more than €2.8 million and will run through 2018. Airbus Defence and Space will also be investing its own resources in the project.

Orbital space is becoming increasingly congested. Space debris threatens space-based infrastructures which are vital for life on Earth. Disused spacecraft are a potentially dangerous source of space debris. The TeSeR project develops technologies that will ensure a sustainable space environment for future generations.

About Airbus Defence and Space

Airbus Defence and Space, a division of Airbus Group, is Europe's number one defence and space enterprise and the second largest space business worldwide. Its activities include space, military aircraft and related systems and services. It employs more than 38,000 people and in 2015 generated revenues of over 13 billion Euros.

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