



Press release

ION-X and Infinite Orbits partner with Space Inventor for an ESA EDISON mission for Equipment Validation to demonstrate debris avoidance capabilities

Aalborg, 20 June 2023 – ION-X, a rapidly emerging player in the small-sat ion thruster market, and Infinite Orbits, a well-established space company focusing on in-orbit servicing, are thrilled to announce their strategic collaboration with Space Inventor, a leading European manufacturer of microsattellites and a service provider for in-orbit demonstration (IOD). Beyond the in-orbit demonstration, this mission will contribute to the development of an autonomous debris avoidance system, coupling Infinite Orbits navigation system with ION-X manoeuvrability solution. The partnership involves individual contracts signed between each company and Space Inventor, bringing together their expertise and capabilities for the advancement of satellite technologies.



Adel Haddoud, CEO of Infinite Orbits (Left) and Thomas Hiriart, CEO of ION-X (right)
at “Assises du New Space”, Paris July 6th, 2023

As part of the agreement, Infinite Orbits will be validating its Vision Based Autonomous navigation camera directly in Low Earth Orbit. This would be the incremental version of the technology launched and tested in May 2023 on-board Orbit Guard 1. Specific LEO compatible GNC will be developed and tested for this purpose.

ION-X will fly their electric propulsion thruster on-board the Space Inventors EDISON spacecraft to demonstrate its state-of-the-art performances, in terms of thrust, fuel efficiency and operability. The EDISON mission is one of a series of demonstration missions, aiming at fully qualifying ION-X product, before scaling its commercialization for satellite constellations by 2025.

The EDISON Satellite is scheduled for launch in the second half of 2024 and is a mission under the European Space Agency's Pioneer program, dedicated to supporting the development of emerging satellite communications technologies and services.

The collaboration between ION-X, Infinite Orbits, and Space Inventor will focus on comprehensive testing, demonstration, and verification of the seamless integration, operational ease, and high-performance capabilities of their respective equipment.

Adel Haddoud, CEO & Co-Founder of Infinite Orbits, commented, "We are thrilled to partner with Space Inventor and ION-X on this LEO mission. Our joint efforts will advance our development for our patented autonomous navigation system and accelerate the commercialization of services toward satellite operators".

Thomas Hiriart, CEO of ION-X, stated, "We are excited to collaborate with Space Inventor and Infinite Orbits on this pioneering project. It will propel the development of our innovative ion thrusters for small satellites, demonstrating the capability of our product to answer the current critical challenges of the space industry. This project is another great example illustrating our vision to build solid technical & programmatic partnerships with European leaders in spacecraft manufacturing".

Karl Kaas, CEO of Space Inventor, said, "We are enthusiastic about providing IOD opportunities to ION-X and Infinite Orbits. Our long-standing collaboration with Infinite Orbits and the addition of ION-X with their innovative ionic liquid electrospray technology is a clear demonstration of our commitment to supporting innovative solutions in the industry. The inclusion of these companies on board EDISON aligns perfectly with ESA's vision for the Pioneer program".

About Infinite Orbits

Infinite Orbits is a French-owned company specializing in life extension services for GEO satellites operated by communication satellite operators. Based in Toulouse (France), Infinite Orbits develops and operates In-Orbit servicers to serve satellite operators across the world. Infinite Orbits has developed unique capabilities in building small sats designed for in-orbit servicing using advanced navigation technologies to perform near range navigation, inspection and docking based services. For more information, visit www.infiniteorbits.io

About ION-X

ION-X, also a French-owned company, founded in 2021 by CNRS and the start-up studio Technofounders and backed by Expansion and BPI France, is transforming a well-established ion source technology, widely used for nano-etching since the 1990s, into an innovative space propulsion solution to address the critical challenges of small satellite constellations. ION-X develops powerful, efficient and scalable space mobility solutions based on their patented ionic liquid electrospray technology. For more information, visit <https://ion-x.space>

About Space Inventor

Space Inventor is a satellite manufacturer specializing in providing modular and scalable microsatellites ranging from 10 kg to 150 kg. Their platform emphasizes high performance, reliability, and innovation. With a team boasting over 250 years of combined experience in the space industry, Space Inventor aims to push the boundaries of satellite engineering and create beauty and innovation in space technology. For more information, visit www.space-inventor.com

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