



## Press Release

### **ION-X will provide HALO-100X thrusters for French defense TOUTATIS mission**

Paris, 28 Novembre 2025 - *The French company ION-X, a specialist in electric propulsion systems for satellites, has been selected to supply its HALO-100X ionic liquid thrusters as part of the TOUTATIS defense program, a strategic mission led by the Directorate General of Armaments (DGA) and the Defense Innovation Agency (AID).*

This mission aims to validate new concepts for space defense operations in order to strengthen France's sovereignty, security, and freedom of action in orbit.

The TOUTATIS program will deploy in low Earth orbit (LEO) two satellites, developed by the French manufacturer U-Space. These satellites will enable the French Space Forces (Space Command, CDE) to simulate various scenarios of opposition or cooperation in orbit, thereby serving as a unique operational demonstrator for future space defense concepts. ION-X's HALO-100X thrusters will be integrated on one of the satellites to perform the high-precision maneuvers required for proximity operations, a key capability for surveillance and collision avoidance missions.

Led under the authority of the DGA and the AID, the TOUTATIS program illustrates the synergy between public institutions and the agile players of the French NewSpace sector. By integrating ION-X's propulsion technology, this mission demonstrates how sovereign innovation directly contributes to national security while affirming France's technological leadership in the space domain.

*"We are honored to take part in the TOUTATIS mission alongside U-Space and the French defense ecosystem. This project illustrates how innovation can strengthen Europe's sovereignty in orbit and reaffirms ION-X's commitment to developing the next*



*generation of agile, precise, and instant propulsion systems for defense applications,”*  
**commented Thomas Hiriart, CEO of ION-X.**

**Fabien Apper, CEO of U-Space, stated:** *“After evaluating how the propulsion solutions available on the market aligned with the needs of the TOUTATIS mission, choosing ION-X was a natural decision and supports the emergence of a French operational capability in space.”*

### **About ION-X**

Founded in May 2021, ION-X develops a new generation of ionic liquid electric propulsion systems designed primarily for small satellites. Its patented technology, derived from joint research by CNRS and CNES, relies on the ejection of fully ionized particles to deliver instant, compact, and scalable thrust performance. The company was co-founded by Jacques Giérak, a global specialist in ion sources at C2N (CNRS, Palaiseau) and recipient of the 2023 CNRS Innovation Medal, and by Yves Matton, partner at the venture builder Technofounders. ION-X is supported by Expansion, Technofounders, the European Innovation Council (EIC), Innovacom, the Île-de-France Region, CNRS Innovation, and Bpifrance.

For more information: [www.ion-x.space](http://www.ion-x.space)

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### **About U-Space**

Founded in 2018, U-Space designs, assembles, and operates modular satellites. As a fully integrated industrial provider, the company supports its clients from the definition of their needs through to in-orbit operations. With its system engineering tools, innovative production facility, and in-house control center based in Toulouse, along with its proprietary software solutions and modular platforms, U-Space fully meets the growing demands of the space market and has established itself as a leading integrator. Combining quality, reliability, and short delivery times, U-Space aims to become Europe’s reference satellite manufacturer in the global constellation market.

For more information: <https://www.u-space.fr/>

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