

25th February 2019
Space BD Inc.

Space BD and Satlantis sign an alliance to install iSIM170 on “i-SEEP”, the exposed experimental platform of the ISS JAXA module

Space BD Inc. received a contract from a Spanish start-up company Satlantis, for an integrated in-orbit demonstration service of the "Integrated Standard Imager for Microsatellites (hereafter iSIM)", a satellite optical instrument that the company has developed. The demonstration mission will utilise the "IVA-replaceable Small Exposed Experiment Platform (i-SEEP)", the exposed facility of the Japanese Experimental Module "Kibo" on the International Space Station (ISS). This is the first time that a non Japanese technology is demonstrated on i-SEEP.

Through this in-orbit demonstration, Satlantis will provide the TRL-9 that a number of important customers were asking for, from Governments to large Space Operators, in order to implement new constellations of microsats based on this iSIM EO disruptive technology.

Taking full advantage of the "Kibo" commercial utilisation program offered by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), Space BD will provide the in-orbit demonstration service to Satlantis to contribute to its product development as an ISS utilisation service provider. Under cooperation with JAXA, Space BD will be providing a fully integrated service starting from support for safety reviews, acquisition of launch for the instrument, installation on the ISS, and downlink of observation data to support Satlantis' technology demonstration. It's also important to note that this is the first international contract in the history of i-SEEP.

Space BD will continue to deepen the collaboration with Satlantis, and it intends to provide in-orbit demonstration service for additional optical instruments that the Spanish company plans to develop in the next few years. Through this opportunity, Space BD plans to further accelerate the business pertaining to the commercial use of internal and external experimental platforms of the ISS "Kibo" Japanese Experiment Module.

The contract signing ceremony held at Satlantis head office in Bilbao, Spain on Jan 25, 2019 under the presence of Mr. Iñigo Urkullu, President of the Basque Government.



From left to right, Iñigo Urkullu, President of the Basque Government, Masatoshi Nagasaki, CEO of Space BD, and Juan Tomás Hernani, CEO of Satlantis.



From left to right, Masatoshi Nagasaki, CEO of Space BD, and Juan Tomás Hernani, CEO of Satlantis.

■ Comment from Makoto Kanazawa – Director of Business Development, Space BD Inc.



Demand for in-orbit demonstration of satellite components and hardware is expanding both in Japan and overseas, due to the rapid growth of the small satellite market in recent years.

We recognise the ISS "Kibo" Japan Experiment Module is a valuable asset that provides safe and reliable verification opportunity for SMEs.

Upon providing holistic service through this project, Space BD will accelerate its activity to promote commercial use of ISS "Kibo" as a precious as well as convenient test bed in the Low Earth Orbit.

■ Comment from Eider Ocerin Martínez – Director of Business Development, SATLANTIS MICROSATS SL.



New Space, as the revolution of the space sector, is deriving in a democratization of this industry, approaching the market to new actors and new business models. Microsatellites and disruptive technologies are a result of this revolution.

In particular iSIM is an innovative very high resolution optical payload for smallsats to be able to provide real time surveillance of irregular linear structures on Earth onboard an agile platform. The system has already been qualified and now will be in-orbit demonstrate on the ISS i-SEEP platform, as a last step towards its commercialization.

■ About Space BD

Space BD is a space start-up founded in 2017 with the aim of contributing to the development of space industry by becoming the one-stop platform to resolve the range of issues with industrialization of space, and to remove the burdens for businesses needing support with technology development.

In May 2018, Space BD was selected by JAXA to become the commercial provider of satellite deployment service from the "Kibo" Japanese Experiment Module of the International Space Station (ISS). The company contributes to promote businesses pertaining to the commercialization of the Low-Earth Orbit centred around the ISS, including internal and external experimental platform.

For more information about Space BD : space-bd.com

■ About Satlantis

SATLANTIS is a New Space specialist who provides proven high performance payload technologies to enable the development of high spatial and temporal resolution services for earth observation and teledetection.

The rising NewSpace startup based in Spain is funded by several companies leaders in their industries from an University of Florida's initiative, founded by renowned entrepreneurs, and supported by some governments and institutions compromised with R&D and the development of their territories.

For more information about Satlantis : satlantis.com

■ Inquiry about this news

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