



## Industry Partners Help Establish Consortium for Satellite Servicing Standards

**Formation Committee of key industry participants developed the governance structure and functional framework for the Consortium.**

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**Summerville, SC** - The Consortium for Execution of Rendezvous and Servicing Operations (CONFERS) Formation Committee has approved the Articles of Collaboration that set the structure and framework for the Consortium. The Formation Committee was comprised of senior representatives from six companies with key business and technical activities related to cooperative on-orbit satellite servicing (OOS) and rendezvous and proximity operations (RPO) in space. The Formation Committee worked with the CONFERS Secretariat to develop the Articles of Collaboration that will establish the core structure, member rights and obligations, and processes of the Consortium. "The Formation Committee provided a key first step in developing common practices that will advance the satellite servicing industry," said Mike Gold, Vice President, Regulatory and Policy for Maxar Technologies, and we at SSL and Maxar were excited to participate."

The six companies represented in the Formation Committee are: Airbus Defence and Space; Chandah Space Technologies; Intelsat General Corporation; Orbital ATK; SSL (a business unit of Maxar Technologies); and XLCatlin. They represent a cross section of international firms involved in building, providing, receiving, and insuring OOS and RPO activities. Their charter was to create an optimal collaboration environment in which colleagues and competitors alike can work together as an effective multi-stakeholder Consortium.

"Airbus looks forward to working with industry colleagues from across the international space community to provide a strong foundation in establishing CONFERS," said Aurélien Pisseloup, Space Tug Business Acquisition Manager at Airbus. "It is of critical importance to develop an effective collaborative framework that supports the goal of developing industry consensus on shared principles and standards."

CONFERS seeks to establish an industry-led forum where industry and other stakeholders can collaborate to research, develop, and publish non-binding, consensus-derived technical and safety standards to enable and enhance future on-orbit satellite maintenance, servicing, and rendezvous operations. Specific information on the membership application process can be found at the CONFERS website, located at <http://www.satelliteconfers.org>.

CONFERS operations are facilitated by an Executive Secretariat composed of Advanced Technology International (ATI), Secure World Foundation, University of Southern California - Space Engineering Research Center at the Information Sciences Institute, and the Space Infrastructure Foundation; and supported by initial seed funding from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

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### ABOUT CONFERS

The Consortium for Execution of Rendezvous and Servicing Operations (CONFERS) is an industry-led initiative with initial seed funding provided by DARPA that aims to leverage best practices from government and industry to research, develop, and publish non-binding, consensus-derived technical and operations standards for OOS and RPO. These standards would provide the foundation for a new commercial repertoire of robust space-based capabilities and a future in-space economy. To find out more about CONFERS, visit: [www.satelliteconfers.org](http://www.satelliteconfers.org).

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