



CONFERS Statement on New U.S. National Space Policy

December 16, 2020

Washington, D.C. -- Members of the Consortium for the Execution of Rendezvous and Servicing (CONFERS) welcome the 2020 United States National Space Policy that, when implemented, will strengthen our space economy, promote security and international collaboration, and ensure space sustainability.

This policy recognizes the significant and positive impact of emerging space technologies, including on-orbit satellite services, and commits to promoting and incentivizing private industry to expand into new global and domestic markets. Importantly, the policy states that **USG entities should leverage satellite servicing, on-orbit manufacturing, and public-private partnerships**. CONFERS members applaud this measure that not only supports a growing satellite servicing market but avoids, where possible, governmental competition against its own industry.

Critically, this policy has recognized the importance of safe and sustainable orbits, which is also an essential tenet of CONFERS [Guiding Principles](#) and [Recommended Design and Operating Practices](#), and to which on-orbit services contribute. Space situational awareness and space traffic management are essential for routine, robust, and innovative commercial space activities, notably those that include rendezvous and servicing. Advancement of space traffic coordination, space situational awareness, and active debris removal are just some of the many policy positions needed to enhance the long-term sustainability of space activities, particularly when done in coordination with allies and partners. Our members applaud USG commitment and leadership to creating a safe, stable, secure, and sustainable environment for future generations and see implementation of this policy as essential to the growth of our industry.

CONFERS members also welcome a single, clear, and defined licensing framework such as a proposed Department of Commerce Mission Authorization which efficiently and effectively replaces the multiple agency licensing framework that exists today. CONFERS members also believe that this framework should begin with a presumption of approval for standard mission authorization licenses, bringing greater regulatory certainty to recurring mission types including on-orbit services. Further, CONFERS members encourage national authorities to regularly review export control policies to ensure that servicing-related technologies and items are maintained at the lowest level of control possible while not sacrificing national security.

CONFERS members look forward to the implementation phase of this policy, where we stand ready to help shape guidelines and licensing requirements, drawing from our published operating principles and practices, and supporting United States space leadership.