



end-to-end  
space mobility

exotrail



# Exotrail and Astroscale France join forces to build deorbiting capability aimed at satellites in Low Earth Orbit

Paris, France – January 28, 2026

Exotrail, a French company specializing in the design, manufacturing and operation of multi-orbit and multi-mission satellites, together with Astroscale France, the French subsidiary of Astroscale Holdings Inc. (“Astroscale”) today announced a strategic partnership focused on building deorbiting capabilities in Low Earth Orbit (LEO). This partnership represents a key milestone in the development of European end-of-life satellite management capabilities, while laying the foundations for structured and shared roadmap, addressing both civilian and defense-related challenges.

As a critical infrastructure for telecommunications, Earth observation, navigation and defense applications, Low Earth Orbit satellites are facing increasing congestion. Operators are embracing the responsible management of satellite end-of-life, as well as working on mitigation of orbital debris. The deorbiting capabilities will hence play a key role in ensuring the long-term safety and sustainability of space operations. The partnership between Exotrail and Astroscale France aims at providing operators this opportunity, starting with a first mission before 2030 to prove a controlled and operational deorbiting capability. To do so, companies will rely on the complementary expertise they built: Exotrail, as a manufacturer, integrator and operator of high-mobility satellites – the spacevan™, and Astroscale France, will provide its heritage capture system technology and close-proximity operations (RPO) expertise, drawing on experience from its previous missions, including docking mechanisms, algorithms, mission preparation and operational know-how.

An initial groundwork has been carried out to give flesh to this partnership, through a study phase led by Exotrail in the frame of a France 2030 contract with CNES. Exotrail has partnered with Astroscale France to complete the study on a deorbiting mission for a constellation satellite in LEO, based on next generation Exotrail’s service vehicle, the spacevan™ RPO/D, and Astroscale’s competences and technologies.

Beyond a first demonstration aimed at a commercial satellite, the two partners are committing to a long-term collaboration built around a shared roadmap, to develop European solutions based on rendezvous and docking technologies. This cooperation is fully aligned with objectives of sustainability, space operations safety and technological sovereignty, in line with French and European space priorities.

**Jean-Luc Maria, CEO, Exotrail,** added on this partnership: “Demonstrating our ability to partner on the critical Rendezvous, proximity and docking technologies is the key to enrich our services portfolio, and accelerate our roadmap to the benefit of the space infrastructure.

Controlled deorbiting and on-orbit rendezvous capabilities are now recognized as critical technological building blocks, for both civilian applications and the future of defense endeavors. By teaming with Astroscale to help secure essential space infrastructures, we add more capabilities to strengthen the resilience of European space architectures and preserve freedom of action in space.”

**Philippe Blatt, Managing Director, Astroscale France,** commented on the announcement: “This partnership demonstrates how specialist servicing capabilities can be effectively integrated into prime-led missions to enable complex in-orbit operations. Beyond a single mission, it reflects the emergence of new business pathways for in-orbit servicing, showing how French industry can collaborate in new ways to deliver advanced capabilities while protecting intellectual property and strengthening national sovereignty.

By combining Exotrail’s mission leadership on vehicles and maneuvers, with Astroscale’s proven capture and close-proximity operations expertise, we are helping to position France and Europe at the forefront of in-orbit servicing and to build a credible, repeatable foundation for this capability in Europe.”

This partnership illustrates the ability of the French and European space ecosystem to team up on very complex capabilities, combining technologies, as well as industrial and operational skills requiring years to master. Exotrail and Astroscale France are convinced that these alliances need to be built today, in order to deliver concrete and innovative solutions answering the challenges the orbital environment is facing today, and will face for decades to come.

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### About Exotrail

Exotrail is a French space logistics company, specializing in orbital mobility and in-orbit services. Founded in 2017 and based in Massy and Toulouse, the company build and operate the service fleet that commercial operators rely on, and defense forces trust. With electric propulsion systems for small satellites and operating spacevan™, a multi-mission multi-orbit service vehicle, Exotrail supports commercial, institutional, and defense customers worldwide. With growing space heritage and industrial footprint, Exotrail is scaling up to meet the needs of an increasingly dense and strategic space environment, in deploying, operating, and sustaining space infrastructure.

[www.exotrail.com](http://www.exotrail.com)

### About Astroscale

Astroscale is the global leader in on-orbit servicing, dedicated to the safe and sustainable development of space. Founded in 2013, the company delivers a range of innovative and scalable in-orbit services, including life extension, in-situ space situational awareness, end-of-life solutions, and active debris removal - enabling a more sustainable and circular space economy.

Since its first successful launch in March 2021, Astroscale has demonstrated rendezvous and proximity operations technologies in orbit through missions such as ELSA-d and ADRAS-J. Astroscale spacecraft have been selected for pioneering missions with leading institutional and commercial partners including JAXA, the U.S. Space Force, the European Space Agency, the UK Space Agency, and Eutelsat OneWeb.

Astroscale France, founded in Toulouse in 2023, strengthens the company's European presence and plays a key role in advancing strategic in-orbit services in France and across Europe. Embedded in the French and European space ecosystem, Astroscale France builds on the company's on-orbit mission heritage, market insight, and space sustainability leadership, working closely with institutional and industrial partners to support innovation, regulation, and long-term space security.

Headquartered in Japan, Astroscale operates globally with subsidiaries in the United Kingdom, the United States, France, and Israel.

[www.astroscale.com](http://www.astroscale.com)

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