



# SPACE SCAVENGERS



## MANAGED RECYCLING ORBIT OPERATED AS A MULTI-AGENT SYSTEM

# Circular Economy in Space



Space scAvengers entered the space industry to create **sustainable, long-term solutions** for debris management and in-orbit servicing



Inspired by the circular economy model where waste becomes a resource, leading to reduced launches from Earth and in-orbit sustainability

## ESA's Open Space Innovation Platform (OSIP)



Proposal selected as part of the **System Studies for the Circular Economy in Space** initiative



# Idea: Managed Recycling Orbit operated as a Multi-Agent System

## Objectives



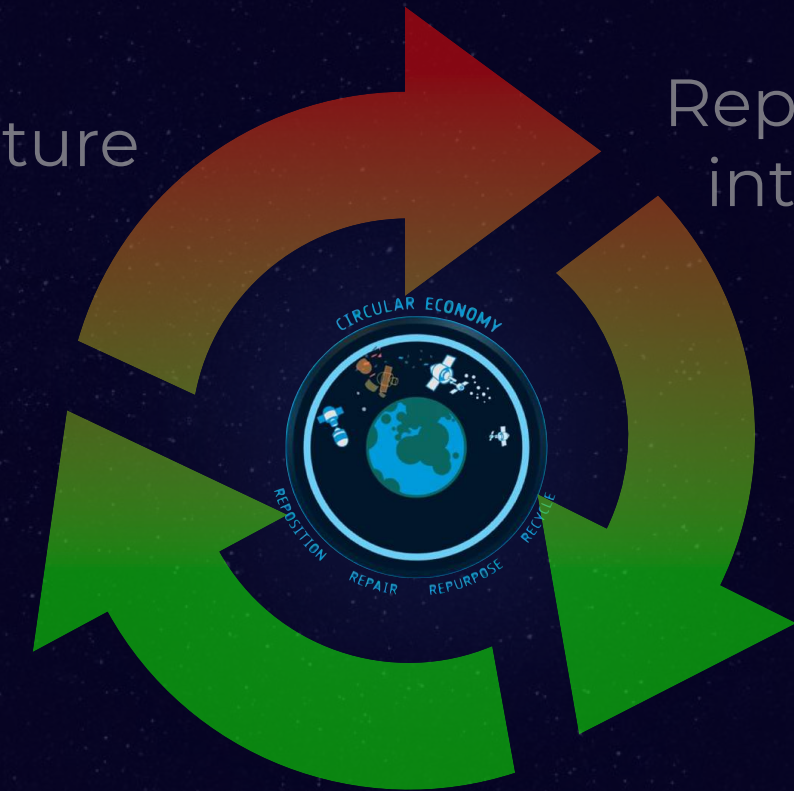
Develop a mission concept that integrates **space debris capture, repositioning, and recycling** in a dedicated orbital zone using **multi-agent systems**



Engage stakeholders and identify future use cases for in-orbit recycling

Capture

Reposition  
into MRO



Repurpose  
& recycle



# Idea: Managed Recycling Orbit operated as a Multi-Agent System

## Consortium

### SPACE SCAVENGERS

Mission design, payload, GNC algorithms, and simulation

### TELESPAZIO GERMANY

Business model, ground segment and operations services

### CZECH AEROSPACE RESEARCH CENTRE

Satellite platform definition and specification



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TELESPAZIO

a LEONARDO and THALES company



CZECH AEROSPACE RESEARCH CENTRE

## Integration with InsPOC3 "Onboard and shared Intelligence"

Synergy with ESA's program on close proximity operations, expanding from simple rendezvous to full autonomous recycling



# Three Pillars of the Managed Recycling Orbit Concept

Dedicated Orbital Zone



Managed Debris Constellation



Multi-Agent Cooperative Systems



+ Ground-based Junkyard Orbit Operator

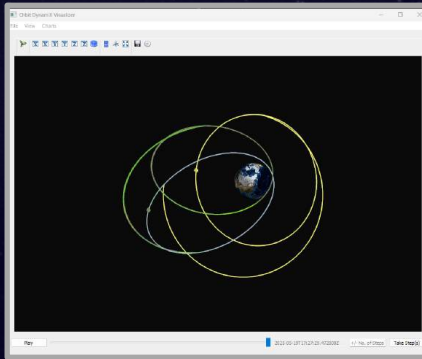


# Transforming waste into cooperative objects for future reuse

## DEDICATED ORBITAL ZONE

### Dedicated Space for Debris

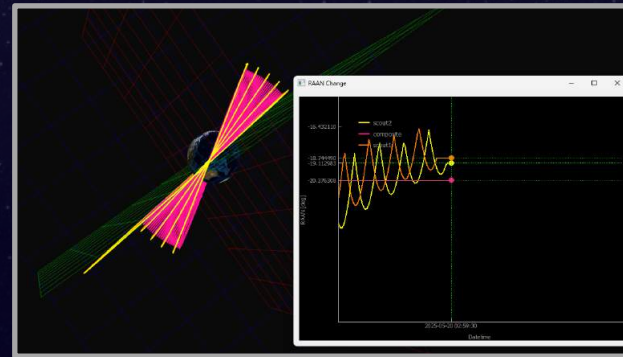
A specific orbital zone where debris is collected, processed, and recycled, creating a sustainable environment for debris management



## MANAGED DEBRIS CONSTELLATION

### Repurposed Debris as a Resource

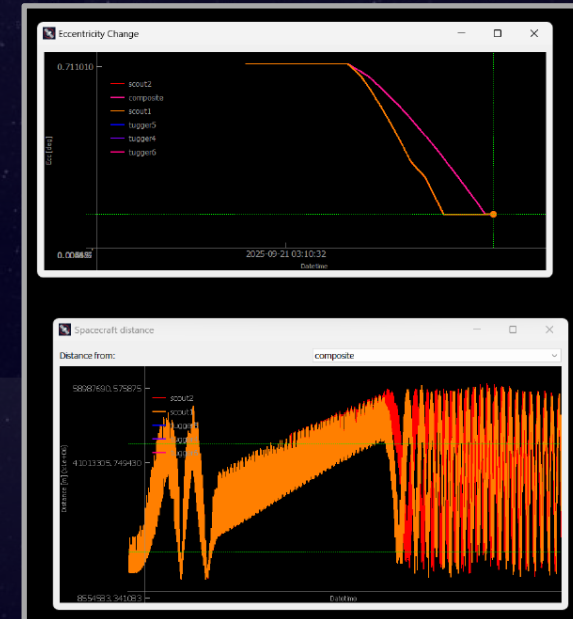
Managed constellation of defunct objects serves as the infrastructure for future space operations, enabling in-orbit manufacturing and construction



## MULTI-AGENT COOPERATIVE SYSTEMS

### Autonomous Debris Management

Multi-agent spacecraft autonomously capture, transform, and reposition debris, enhancing operational efficiency and safety in space



## GROUND-BASED JUNKYARD ORBIT OPERATOR

### Earth-based Control Hub

The Junkyard Operator manages and optimizes the entire debris handling process, supporting future services like in-orbit repairs and satellite recycling



# CONOPS



Space debris

f.e. rocket body upper stage (ESA-A; EPS L9; ...)

MAS Fleet - Swarm Squad composed of Micro-satellites with various functions



Scouts

Inspection and GNC support



Vultures

Uncooperative / unprepared debris capture; In case of prepared debris, Dockers can be used



Tuggers

High delta-V / high mass transfers

MAS Agents are capable to create stacks through docking.

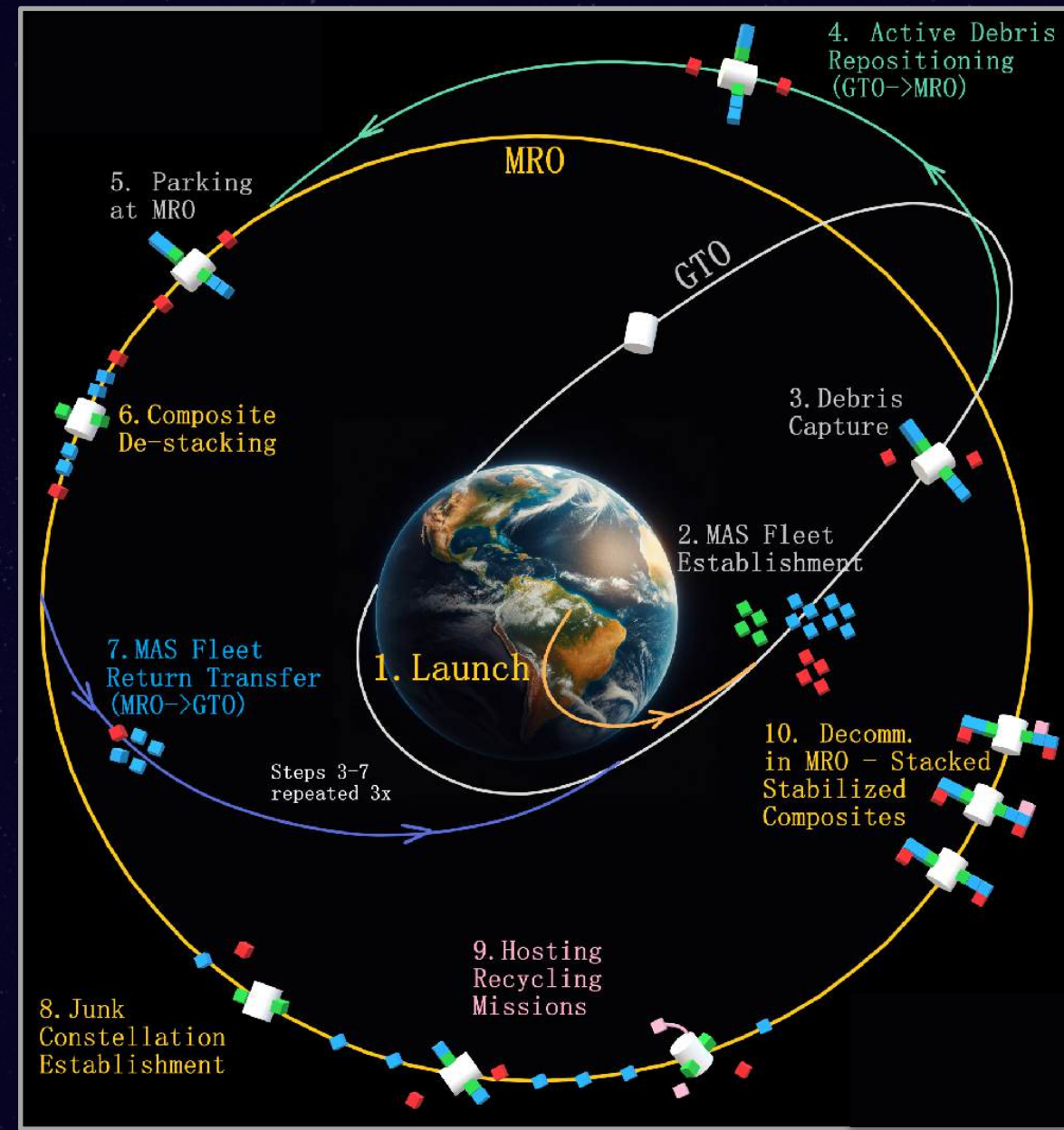
Vultures remain connected to debris to secure cooperativeness and preparedness of the composite

The new European FEEP propulsion system with gas propulsion system preliminary selected and evaluated as feasible solution.



Client Chaser

During hosted recycling mission

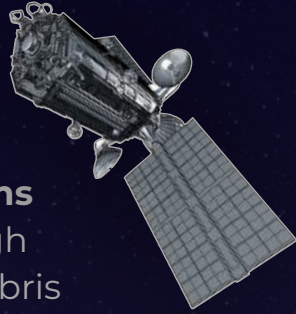


# Enabling Technologies

## PLATFORMS

**Microsatellite platforms** with **hybrid propulsion systems** (electric + cold gas) provide high versatility, allowing efficient debris capture and repositioning

Modular, enabling agents to work cooperatively



## PAYLOADS

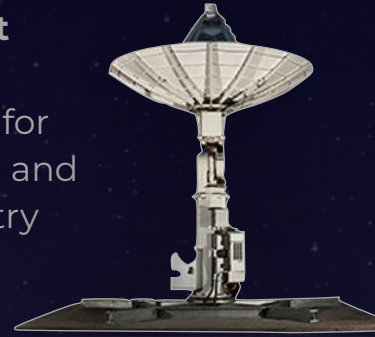
**Robotic arms** and **capture mechanisms** for handling debris, coupled with advanced sensors for precise manipulation

Sensors: LiDAR, cameras for real-time debris tracking and **collaborative perception**



## GROUND SEGMENT

**Ground segment** using predictive **simulation tools** for mission planning and real-time telemetry systems



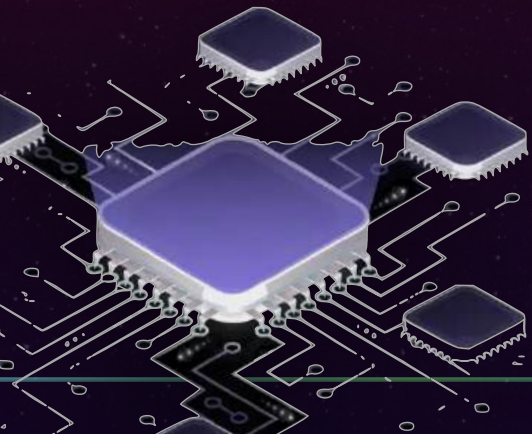
existing

emerging

## SHARED INTELLIGENCE

**Distributed intelligence for real-time decision-making**

Supported by supervised autonomy and telemetry






# Enabling Development

## SIMULATION ENVIRONMENT FOR COLLABORATIVE SPACE MISSION PLANNING


### ACCESS AND USABILITY

**Web based** access 

Comprehensive **Documents Library** 

**Marketplace** for Spacecraft Components 


real parts such as buses, propulsion systems, robotic arms, sensors ...

**Matchmaking System** 


find and connect with compatible space systems and services

### ADVANCED MISSION PLANNING AND ANALYSIS

**Mission Analysis** based on **CONOPS** 

**AI Assistance** help with mission setup and results analysis 

**Contact Dynamics** contact physics between spacecraft 

**Orbital Physics** 


**Close Proximity Operations (CPO)** tools for simulating spacecraft rendezvous and docking maneuvers 

**Control Algorithms Training** integrated machine learning and AI for GNC for collaborative missions 


### SIMULATION AND INTEGRATION

**Digital Twin** Creation 

**SW-Centric** Mission Preparation 

**Multi-Agent Systems** 

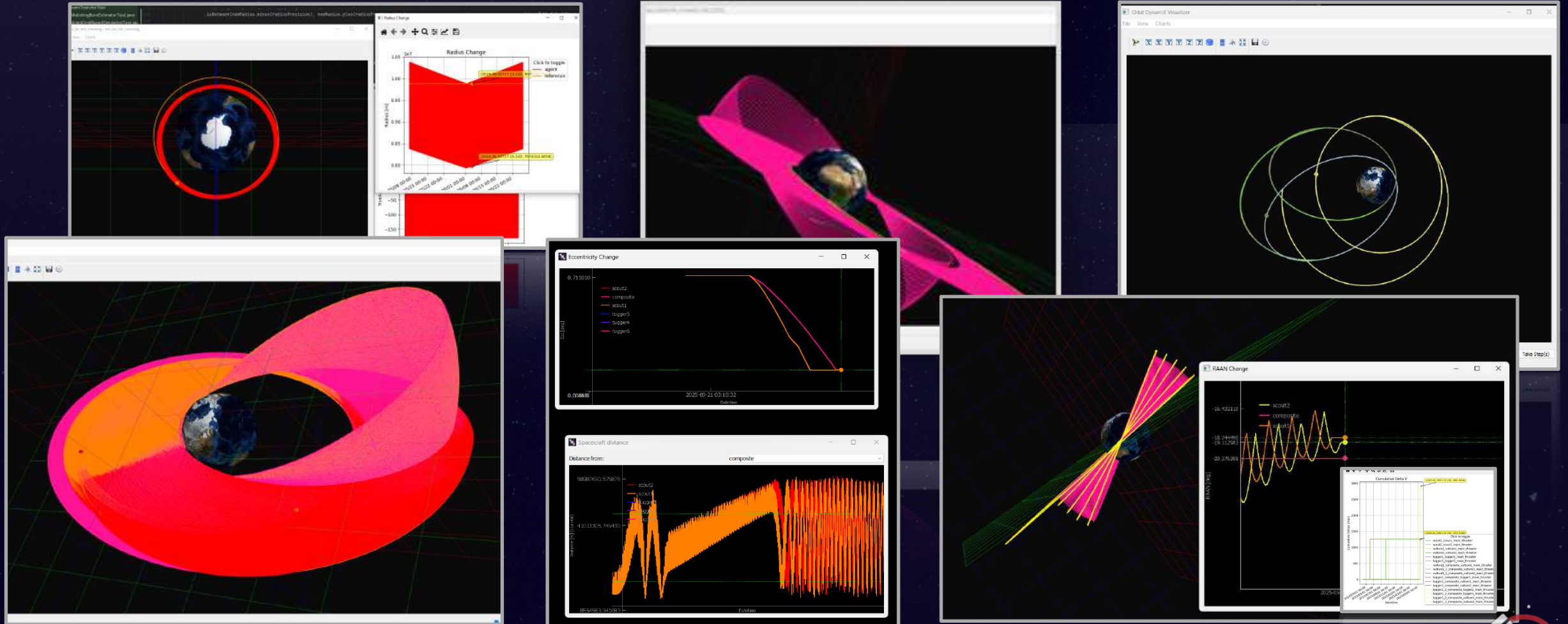
**HW In-the-Loop Simulations** 

**Shared Intelligence** collaboration between multiple spacecraft 



# Enabling Development

## SIMULATOR AND PLATFORM FOR SPACE MISSION PLANNING



... a little Call for Action

WE INVITE COMPANIES INTERESTED IN IN-ORBIT SERVICES TO  
**JOIN US**

AND HELP SHAPE FUTURE  
OF COLLABORATIVE MISSION PLANNING

- **Share your spacecraft capabilities** and **functional details**
- **Contribute your expertise** in satellite technologies
- **Bring your spacecraft solutions** to multi-agent system
- **Co-create** next-generation in-orbit services with our innovative platform
- **Participate in trials and be an adopter of in-orbit servicing missions planning**



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 **TELESPAZIO**  
a LEONARDO and THALES company





# SPACE SCAVENGERS

UNLOCKING

THE **AUTONOMOUS COLLABORATION** IN SPACE

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