



*Fostering Standards
to Enable Commercial
Satellite Servicing*

Cooperative on-orbit satellite servicing (OOS) and rendezvous and proximity operations (RPO) have the potential to foster the next economic revolution in space. The ability to approach, inspect, grasp, manipulate, modify, repair, refuel, integrate, and build completely new platforms and spacecraft on orbit would enable new business models, innovation, and opportunities in space.

However, the lack of clear, widely accepted technical and safety standards for responsible performance of OOS and RPO involving commercial satellites remains a major obstacle to satellite servicing becoming a major industry, and could lead to mishaps that would put long-term sustainability of space itself at risk.

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.

CONFERS will be open to participation by private sector stakeholders in the international satellite servicing community. All companies and academic institutions developing, operating, insuring, and purchasing OOS and RPO capabilities are encouraged to join and contribute their experience and expertise.

CONFERS is being developed by a team of private sector organizations with initial funding from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). Advanced Technology International (ATI) is providing overall program management. Technical expertise and project execution support is being provided by the Secure World Foundation (SWF), the University of Southern California's Space Engineering Research Center (SERC), and the Space Infrastructure Foundation (SIF).

Over the first year of operations, the CONFERS team intends to research existing practices on OOS and RPO, and develop a multi-stakeholder process that brings together experts from industry, academia, government, and the international community to draft initial standards. Once approved by the Consortium members, the draft standards would be worked through existing Standards Development Organizations for acceptance.



WHY JOIN



- Your organization would have a voice in the evolution of industry standards
- Robust standards would help create a vibrant satellite servicing sector with growing market opportunities
- Your organization can network and collaborate with potential technology partners, customers, and new talent

NEXT STEPS



The consortium's governance and membership application documents currently are under development. Once those documents are approved, we will begin active recruitment of members.

Until that time, please watch for launch of the consortium's website, www.satelliteconfers.org, which will provide additional background information and instructions for how to join the consortium.

CONTACT



For questions regarding the standards development products and process, please contact:

Brian Weeden
Executive Director
bweeden@swfound.org

For membership and administrative questions, please contact:

Stacey Lindbergh
Program Manager
stacey.lindbergh@ati.org

www.satelliteconfers.org
confers@ati.org