

## Terms of Reference: CEOS New Space Task Team

DRAFT v0.3, dated 29 Nov 2022

**Purpose:** There is significant interest across CEOS agencies with respect to how best to engage with the “New Space” companies that may bring an important added value to the public upstream and downstream sectors, whose ultimate beneficiaries are the users.

In several individual countries represented in CEOS, the national public institutions are exploring avenues for facilitating this innovative and rapidly-expanding industry (the New Space sector) and for fostering partnerships with those next-generation non-governmental companies, that are closely linked to Earth observation (EO) from space, either on the procurement of satellites (upstream) or on the exploitation of EO data. Sharing experience acquired at country-level by the national space agency can be beneficial to the other CEOS members.

At the level of CEOS as an organization, there is an awareness and strong desire among CEOS membership to explore ideas for future initiatives between CEOS and the commercial sector, and thereby ensuring that CEOS remains true to its mission statement (CEOS ensures international coordination of civil space-based Earth observation programs and promotes exchange of data to optimize societal benefit and inform decision making for securing a prosperous and sustainable future for humankind).

The topic of New Space has been introduced in CEOS by the 2022-2023 CEOS Strategic Implementation Team (SIT) Chair as one of the SIT’s strategic priorities.

The New Space Task Team will explore collaboration opportunities in New Space that bring mutual benefit to all parties, including the identification of concrete initiatives that will drive the agenda forwards.

**Organization:** The New Space Task Team will be led by the CEOS SIT Chair who provides strategic guidance on the direction, progress, and status of implementation activities in relation to the established priorities, commitments, and partnerships of the CEOS organization. The membership of the New Space Task Team is open to representatives of all CEOS Agencies and to leads of the various CEOS Working Groups (WGs), Virtual Constellations (VCs) and Ad Hoc teams (AHTs). The CEOS WGs, VCs and AHTs will play a key role in the definition and implementation of CEOS activities aiming at fostering the partnership between CEOS Members and the New Space sector to provide more accurate and tailored information, and to propose innovative targeted services to users.

**Objectives:** The New Space Task Team’s objectives and intended outcomes, listed below, consist of:

1. Sharing experience between CEOS Space Agencies:
  - Organize dedicated sessions at each CEOS meeting attended by CEOS Principals (SIT, SIT Technical Workshop, and CEOS Plenary).

2. Define and propose actions within the CEOS framework that aim to enhance the outcomes of CEOS entities (WGs, VCs, AHTs) working with New Space companies. Those activities shall also foster the partnership at national level between individual CEOS members and their national “New Space” industry.
  - Commence with an assessment of the areas and issues that are common among CEOS agencies and that are predicted to impact public EO programmes in future. These may include, for example: the impact on ground and space architectures; the need for more effective data interoperability and integration to combine more data streams; collaborative efforts on major datasets in support of CEOS priorities; calibration and validation of small satellites and calibration transfer.
  - Issue a White Paper with Findings & Recommendations. This document shall be based on both the information collected during the experience sharing sessions and the specific relevant activities undertaken across the CEOS entities. The White Paper will highlight which topics are most productive for CEOS to pursue and which may be out of scope or problematic.
  - Develop a series of objectives and activities that will guide CEOS in fostering the combined use of public and private EO New Space capabilities, both upstream and downstream.

**Planning, Implementation, and Reporting:**

- Be the principal interface for the definition of CEOS initiatives in New Space.
- The lead for the New Space Task Team, the SIT Chair, will systematically report at the monthly CEOS Secretariat teleconferences , as well as at the CEOS Plenary, SIT meeting and the SIT Technical Workshop, including on matters requiring discussion or decision by CEOS Principals and ensuring that there is Principal support for all new initiatives.
- Work with the CEO and the CEOS Secretariat to ensure well-prepared and coordinated planning and reporting.

The New Space Task Team is initially established for a period of one year, until the 2023 CEOS Plenary.

These Terms of Reference can be amended or modified whenever deemed necessary. The amendment process should include a review of other CEOS guiding documents that will be affected by the amendment or modification to ensure that all of the guiding documents are consistent and mutually supporting. Such amendment or modification of the Terms of Reference shall require review and approval by the CEOS Plenary.