

Momentum to Provide Unmatched Flexibility for SpaceX Rideshare Missions

March 09, 2020 – Santa Clara, CA – Momentum announced today it has purchased space on six [SpaceX SmallSat Rideshare Program](#) missions, including five launches to Sun-Synchronous orbit (SSO) and one to mid-inclined low Earth orbit, which Momentum will use to allow its customers access to custom drop-off altitudes and orbits in space. Momentum has numerous customers lined up for Vigoride shuttle flights in 2020 and 2021 including Steamjet, NuSpace and Aurora Space Technologies. Several other customers have signed up for Momentum charter flights to destinations not directly served by shuttle flights.

Momentum, the first provider of in-space transportation services, will offer last-mile shuttle services for small satellites traveling on these SpaceX missions, bringing more frequent opportunities for positioning to satellite imaging data providers, environmental earth observation programs and more.

“We hope to show that ridesharing from the Falcon 9 will be a game-changer. By ferrying payloads to multiple orbits from a single launch, we multiply the capability of an already impressive system that has revolutionized access to space,” said Mikhail Kokorich, CEO of Momentum.

“We are excited to continue our work with Momentum to offer small satellite operators reliable and cost-efficient rides to space,” said Tom Ochinerro, SpaceX Vice President of Commercial Sales.

The Momentum Vigoride service vehicle is capable of carrying up to 300 kg of customer payload to various altitudes, orbits, and orbital planes. This shuttle service will extend the range of drop-off orbits for SpaceX rideshare customers to a wide span of altitudes between 300-1200 km for mid-inclined orbit, and SSO orbits. Additionally, Vigoride shuttle missions will be capable of delivering satellites to orbits and can change the sun crossing time to be up to 3 hours different from that of the launch vehicle drop off. This unprecedented flexibility will enable new business models and allow the selection of optimized orbits for constellations to reduce CAPEX costs and expedite constellation deployment. For example many earth observation constellations prefer to have the same sun crossing time such as 10:00 am LTAN, so that the images they take of a particular location are at the same time of day, making analytics and data gathered from their mission more useful. Momentum can help ensure such customers can take advantage of the frequent and cost effective access to space offered by SpaceX's SmallSat Rideshare Program, while also achieving their specific final orbit. Momentum ensures that their customers are dropped off at the exact altitude, inclination, phase and sun crossing time needed to ensure mission success.

A graduate of the prestigious Y Combinator program, and based in Santa Clara, California, Momentus raised almost \$50M of equity funding, including a \$25.5MM Series A in 2019. Momentus employs new and proprietary technologies, including water plasma propulsion to enable revolutionary and affordable orbital shuttle services. A 16U demonstration mission, “El Camino Real”, was launched and tested in 2019. Two demo missions of the Vigoride transfer vehicle will fly in 2020, paving the way for quarterly commercial missions from 2021 onward.

About Momentus

Momentus is the first company providing in-space transportation services for satellites. The company was founded in 2017 in Santa Clara, CA. Momentus designs and builds transfer vehicles propelled by proprietary water plasma thrusters. The vehicles ferry satellites to a custom orbit after they are delivered by conventional rockets to their initial orbit. Momentus is a 60 person team and growing rapidly. Momentus will start commercial services in 2021 with Vigoride and will progressively introduce a whole family of spacecraft with expanded capabilities.

For more information and a list of job openings, please visit us at <http://www.momentus.space/careers>