

# Momentum to Launch IRIS-A Mission for Taiwan-based ODYSSEUS and NCKU Space Laboratory

LSA will support the development of the Taiwanese nanosatellite space program through the first joint mission with ODYSSEUS Space Inc. and the National Cheng Kung University

April 01, 2020 – Santa Clara, CA / Taiwan -- Momentum ([www.momentum.space](http://www.momentum.space)), provider of in-space transportation services for satellites, today announced a launch service agreement with ODYSSEUS Space Inc. to deploy the IRIS-A mission for the National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) of Tainan, Taiwan.

The IRIS-A mission is of strategic importance to Taiwan, and is the first of three, with follow up missions IRIS-B and IRIS-C due to reach space in 2022 and 2023. IRIS-A will be equipped with Internet of Things (IoT) technologies to achieve a Doppler shift estimation and improve the quality of downlink signal, increasing the efficiency of future IoT constellations of nanosatellites intended to monitor objects from space.

“We are very happy to be part of this consortium,” declared Julien Hennequin, Managing Director of ODYSSEUS Space Inc. “We have been working with NCKU for many years now and are very glad to support them on launching this mission. IoT is a very hot topic in Taiwan and bringing it to space will comfort the position of Taiwan in this sector. We are also very enthusiastic to partner with Momentum and together bring our customer into space. The Vigoride solution is highly innovative and provides small satellite developers, like NCKU, with long awaited flexibility in the choice of their orbit and their timeline.”

“ODYSSEUS Space is playing a major role in enhancing and facilitating international cooperation between Taiwan and the rest of the world with respect to nanosatellite innovation,” said Mikhail Kokorich, CEO of Momentum. “We look forward to powering their technological progress in space and supporting future IRIS missions.”

A graduate of the prestigious Y Combinator program, and based in Santa Clara, California, Momentum raised approx. \$50M of equity funding, including a \$25.5MM Series A in 2019. Momentum water plasma propulsion proprietary technology enables revolutionary while affordable orbital shuttle services.

A 16U demonstration mission, “El Camino Real”, was launched and tested in Summer 2019. Two demo missions of the Vigoride transfer vehicle will fly in late 2020 and early 2021, paving the way for quarterly commercial missions from mid 2021 onward.

In February, Momentum announced Singapore startups NuSpace and Aliena plan to send their joint NuX-1 demonstration satellite on Momentum’s Vigoride orbital transfer vehicle, after it

launches in mid 2021 on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

“We have established a firm presence for our unique solution in Asia,” added Dawn Harms, Chief Revenue Officer for Momentus. “We are fortunate to have met with a large number of companies in need of our specialized services during the Q1 2020 space conference season, and we look forward to executing our continued support for burgeoning new space sectors in Taiwan, Singapore, India and beyond.”

### **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 please visit <http://www.momentus.space/>

### **About Odysseus Space, Inc**

ODYSSEUS is a young startup created by French professionals coming from the European space sector and implemented in Taiwan since 2016. ODYSSEUS is using its experience and expertise both in Asia and in Europe to address the booming global market of small satellites applications.

ODYSSEUS' long-term goal is to develop innovative technologies to unlock new possibilities and significantly increase what is feasible to achieve at an affordable cost in Space, and to move toward a sustainable environment where most of the resources would be available and used in-situ. This is why ODYSSEUS is investing in technologies such as optical communication systems, as well as autonomous navigation for satellites to support the global NewSpace effort. The company, who won the 2018 SpaceResources.lu Exploration Masters competition from the Luxembourg Space Agency, has started the process of relocating their headquarters from Taiwan to Luxembourg, and will keep developing its activities in Taiwan and the rest of Asia.

For more information please visit <https://www.odysseus.space>.

### **About NCKU**

The National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) is a public research university located in Tainan, Taiwan. NCKU is one of the best comprehensive universities in Taiwan and a leader in promoting industry-academia cooperation. It has consistently been ranked as one of the top universities in Asia. The university is best known for engineering, computer science, medicine, and planning and design.

The Space Lab @ NCKU already built a 2U cubesat under the QB50 program, launched from the International Space Station in 2017. Three IRIS missions of growing complexity are under preparation, for launch in 2021 and beyond.

For more information please visit <https://web.ncku.edu.tw/>.