**Terms of Reference: CEOS New Space Task Team**

**DRAFT v0.2, dated 15 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 CEOS Chair and Troika will contribute to the Task Team, as will the SIT Vice-Chair, the Systems Engineering Office (SEO), and the CEOS Executive Officer (CEO). Other CEOS members and leads of the various CEOS Working Groups (WGs), Virtual Constellations (VCs) and Ad Hoc teams (AHTs) may be asked to attend as and when required. 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 Plenary, SIT Technical Workshop, and CEOS Plenary).
1. Define and implement 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 smallsat missions.

**Planning, Implementation, and Reporting:**

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

These Terms of Reference can be amended or modified only after consultation and agreement by the CEOS Chair and the SIT Chair. 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 shall require review and approval by the CEOS Plenary.