IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Astroscale Successfully Launches World's First Debris Inspection Spacecraft, ADRAS-J

Tokyo, Japan, Feb. 19, 2024 – Astroscale Japan Inc. ("Astroscale Japan"), a subsidiary of Astroscale Holdings Inc. ("Astroscale"), the market leader in satellite servicing and long-term orbital sustainability across all orbits, confirmed the successful launch of its commercial debris inspection demonstration satellite, Active Debris Removal by Astroscale-Japan (ADRAS-J), from Rocket Lab's Launch Complex 1 in Mahia, New Zealand on Sunday, February 18, at 2:52 pm UTC.

"The Astroscale Japan Mission Operations team in Tokyo has successfully made contact with ADRAS-J and is ready to start operations," said Eijiro Atarashi, ADRAS-J Project Manager. "This milestone signals the start of our mission, and we are excited to survey and characterize a real piece of debris through our innovative Rendezvous and Proximity Operations (RPO) capabilities."

The ADRAS-J spacecraft was selected by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency ("JAXA") for Phase I of its Commercial Removal of Debris Demonstration program. Astroscale Japan is responsible for the design, manufacture, test, launch and operations of ADRAS-J.

The ADRAS-J mission is the world's first attempt to safely approach, characterize and survey the state of an existing piece of large debris through RPO. ADRAS-J is designed to rendezvous with a Japanese H2A upper stage rocket body, demonstrate proximity operations, and gather images to assess the rocket body's movement and condition of the structure. The mission will demonstrate the most challenging RPO capabilities necessary for on-orbit services.

"The launch of ADRAS-J is a new chapter in Astroscale's history as the first mission we have contracted for a space agency to successfully reach orbit," said Eddie Kato, President and Managing Director of Astroscale Japan. "ADRAS-J is monumental for us as a company and for the entire sector as the mission will demonstrate the essential RPO capabilities for future on-orbit services. Thank you to all the Astroscale team, JAXA, our partners and supporters for their commitment and dedication to getting us to this point."

In the coming days, the ADRAS-J team will continue in orbit tests and checkouts, before commencing rendezvous operations. The H2A rocket body, which was launched in 2009, is an unprepared object that does not provide any GPS data on its own, meaning the precise location and orbital position needed for an RPO mission is not available. ADRAS-J will use ground-based observation data of the client's approximate orbital position to initially approach the client from a safe distance based on this limited information. The following stages of the mission include rendezvous, proximity approach, proximity operations and departure, and are expected to be completed over the next several months.

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About Astroscale

Astroscale is the first private company with a vision to secure the safe and sustainable development of space for the benefit of future generations and is dedicated to on-orbit servicing across all orbits.

Founded in 2013, Astroscale is developing innovative and scalable solutions across the spectrum of on-orbit servicing, including life extension, in-space space situational awareness, end-of-life, and active debris removal, to create sustainable space systems and mitigate the growing and hazardous buildup of debris in space. Astroscale is also defining the economics of on-orbit servicing and working with government and commercial stakeholders to develop norms, regulations, and incentives for the responsible use of space.

Headquartered in Japan, Astroscale has an international presence with subsidiaries in the United Kingdom, the United States, France, and Israel. Astroscale is a rapidly expanding venture company, working to advance safe and sustainable growth in space and solve a growing environmental concern.

Find out more about Astroscale at www.astroscale.com.

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