

Augsburg-based Company MT Aerospace Plans Space Refueling Station for Satellites

The **U.S. Space Administration** has announced plans for two missions to test the feasibility of reliably refueling satellites in orbit. The missions, codenamed Tetra-5 and Tetra-6, will utilize refueling systems from companies such as Orbit Fab, Astroscale, and Northrop Grumman.

Tetra-5 is scheduled to launch in 2026 and will evaluate a special docking system that will allow satellites to connect to fuel depots in orbit. During the mission, a small satellite will attempt to dock with a depot built by Orbit Fab, while another will test compatibility with a fuel shuttle built by Astroscale. Tetra-6 is slated to follow in 2027 and will test the Geosynchronous Auxiliary Support Tanker (GAS-T), which is intended to serve as a larger space refueling station for satellites.

European efforts to develop space refueling stations is headed by Augsburg based MT Aerospace. The company is currently working on studies for the European Space Agency (ESA) on how space refueling stations for fuel storage and rocket refueling in space can be implemented.

At the the BDLI Space Congress on September 25, 2025, in Berlin, ArianeGroup and MT Aerospace signed a contract for the supply of components for the European Ariane 6 launch vehicle. According to the agreement, MT Aerospace will supply key structural components and tanks from its series production for flight models 16 to 42.

But this isn't the only initiative of its kind being pursued by ESA. In October 2024, the agency announced that it had selected ArianeGroup, GMV Aerospace and Defence, MT Aerospace, SAB Aerospace, and The Exploration Company to develop in-orbit fuel storage and refilling capabilities. [1]

The European Space Agency (ESA) would also need space infrastructure for its Mars projects, for example, to transport components for Mars stations to the red planet. "So, a refueling station would have to be placed in space, enabling a kind of shuttle service to distant planets," an MT Aerospace spokesperson explained to B4B Schwaben radio station. And the Augsburg-based company wants to be involved in this. [2]

MT Aerospace plans to create new jobs – 100 in 2026 and a similar number next year. CEO Scheib told the "Augsburger Allgemeine" newspaper that the aerospace industry is booming and becoming a more mainstream sector. MT Aerospace intends to plan and build so-called space refueling stations. These will be able to supply satellites in space with energy, allowing them to remain operational for longer periods. Scheib praised the aerospace initiatives at the federal and Bavarian levels in this context. [3]

A small model of the space refueling station lies on the table at the Augsburg-based aerospace company MT Aerospace. It was created using the company's 3D printer. Solar panels and fuel modules are visible. Photography is not permitted yet. [4]

References:

[1] <https://europeanspaceflight.com/esa-to-launch-in-orbit-refuelling-demonstration-mission/>

[2] <https://t3n.de/news/us-space-force-plant-weltraum-tankstellen-1681154/>

[3] Radio station: Bayern 2 Nachrichten, 17.01.2026 07:00

[4] [augsburger-allgemeine.de](https://www.augsburger-allgemeine.de)