

NEUMANN SPACE STRIKES MAJOR US DEAL

CAMERON ENGLAND

Neumann Space's satellite propulsion system will be integrated into a US project that aims to use space junk as fuel, with the Adelaide firm announcing its first commercial sale.

The company, which is based at the Lot Fourteen start-up hub, said it had struck an agreement with Colorado-based CisLunar Industries to help advance a \$US1.7m project funded by the US Space Force – America's military arm tasked with operating in space.

The project envisages capturing space junk and processing it through CisLunar's Modular Space Foundries to create fuel which can then be used in the Neumann Drive, patented in 2015 by Paddy Neumann.

Neumann Space chief executive Herve Astier said the deal represented the company's first commercial sales and exports.

“Our company's mission is to enable the sustainable economic development of space, and we are proud that our propulsion system will play a role in this project as it seeks to create the foundations for a new circular economy in space,” he said.

The company said the Neumann Drive was selected for the project due its unique propulsion technology, which uses solid metallic propellant.

“Neumann Space has previously conducted a series of tests demonstrating that its patented pulsed cathodic arc thruster technology can use in-space recycled metal as fuel,” the company said.

CisLunar Industries chief executive Gary Calnan said the Space Force had a need to manoeuvre assets “without regret”.

“Our Modular Space Foundry and our partners’ capabilities allow us to turn space debris into propellant,” he said.