



Gravitics and the U.S. Space Force's New Orbital Carrier: Launching the Space Launch Revolution in Space

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The U.S. Space Force is funding the development of a new spacecraft called the "Orbital Carrier," designed to serve as a pre-positioned launch platform directly in space. Supported by maximum funding of 60 million dollars through the SpaceWERX innovation office, the project is led by aerospace company Gravitics, based in Seattle, with the goal of revolutionizing rapid-response space operations.

Advanced Capabilities of the Orbital Carrier

- **Flexible Payload and Last-Minute Deployment:** Designed for payloads that cannot afford to remain idle on ground launch pads, enabling rapid operations and eliminating traditional ground bottlenecks.
- **On-Orbit Warehousing:** Features a dedicated cargo bay that allows for extended storage periods in space before actual deployment.
- **Low Earth Orbit (LEO) Delivery and Transportation:** Offers delivery services, tug, ferry, and the ability to visit and deliver cargo to multiple orbital destinations.
- **Power Options:** Provides continuous power to onboard payloads that need to remain charged and operational during the storage phase.
- **Positioning Capability:** Leverages versatile propulsion technology to deliver gentle thrusts, orbital raises, and precision maneuvers.
- **Secondary Missions:** Includes removal and de-orbiting services at end of life for managing space debris.

Partnership with Lockheed Martin and Strategic Context

Gravitics' role in the U.S. defense and space industrial base received further acceleration in August 2026 when Lockheed Martin selected the company to support the execution of a contract of national importance for the U.S. Department of Defense. As underscored by Michael Bowker, Chief Business Officer of Gravitics, the collaboration represents a significant milestone focused on national security priorities.

This development fits within the framework of concerns expressed by Space Force leadership regarding advanced threats from powers such as China and Russia, engaged in the development of anti-satellite weapons, cyberattacks, and counter-space technologies. Facing disruptive operations such as jamming or laser-blinding of spy satellites, the Orbital Carrier and industrial synergy with Lockheed Martin enable the positioning and maintenance of supplies and backup vehicles directly in orbit, ensuring unprecedented responsiveness in case of active conflicts.