# **News Release**



# INCJ to make follow-on investment in Astroscale Pte. Ltd. Aiming to commercialize space debris removal

**Tokyo, October 31, 2018** – INCJ Ltd. ('INCJ') announced today its decision to make a follow-on investment, through third-party share allocation, of up to US\$35 million in Astroscale Pte. Ltd. ("Astroscale"), and the completion of US\$25.5 million of this phased investment. Astroscale is engaged in the development of space debris\* removal technologies and other space-related services. In addition to existing shareholders, new investors in this round of financing include funds operated by SBI Investment Co., Ltd and Mitsubishi Estate Co., Ltd..

\*Space debris includes decommissioned satellites, spent rocket stages and other orbiting inoperative manmade objects or fragments of such objects produced through collisions.

There are currently more than 750,000 pieces of space debris measuring more than one centimeter surrounding the Earth, and the number is rapidly increasing. Their presence puts at risk the satellites that are an essential part of our everyday lives, and represents a threat to the utilization of outer space. Recognizing that the continued utilization of space depends on the removal of space debris and containment of its growth, European and US space agencies have developed guidelines for space debris removal, and interest in the issue is growing internationally.

Astroscale, a space-industry startup, was established with the aim of commercializing the removal of space debris to ensure more sustainable space exploration. Accelerating development since its establishment in 2013, Astroscale currently has two business pillars: a service to remove defective satellites which will be compatible with satellites launched in the future, and a service to remove large-scale space debris currently in orbit. Astroscale established a UK subsidiary in 2017, for the long-term business development in the country. Business has been accerelating, and it plans to launch the world's first demonstration of a debris-removing satellite in the first half of 2020. This round of funding will be used for the establishment and expansion and development of business locations to support full-scale deployment of space debris removal services.

INCJ made the decision to invest US\$30 million in Astroscale in February 2016 and completed two investments of US\$15 million each in March 2016 and June 2017. In addition to investing the funds necessary for their business, INCJ has provided management support including the dispatch of an external director. INCJ has been impressed with Astroscale's technological capabilities and its ability to drive business with domestic and foreign government, international organization and companies, leading to the decision to make a follow-on investment. Thorough this funding, INCJ will support technological development, demonstrations, and the structuring of Astroscale's business model while contributing to the resolution of the issue of space debris, a major obstacle

to the development of the space industry. Moreover, by supporting the expansion of the space industry by private companies, INCJ aims to contribute to the development of Japan's space-related R&D.

## **About Astroscale Pte. Ltd.**

Established: May 2013

Business: Space debris removal, orbital services, and other business related to outer space

Headquaters: Singapore

Japan R&D: Sumida-ku, Tokyo
Representative: Mitsunobu Okada
URL: Astroscale.com

#### About INCJ, Ltd.

INCJ, Ltd. was established in September 2018 via company split from Innovation Network Corporation of Japan (INCJ). INCJ was established in July 2009 with the aim of overcoming boundaries between companies and industries, creating and nurturing key industries via open innovation for the prosperity of future generations, and the company has changed its name to Japan Investment Corporation (JIC) and begun new activities. INCJ, Ltd. will continue the activities of INCJ, engaging in "Value Up" activities such as overseeing additional investments, milestone investments and exits from investments in portfolio companies until March 2025.

URL: http://www.incj.co.jp

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### Appendix

#### Overview of Follow-on Investment Decision

#### 1. Target

Astroscale Pte. Ltd.

Established: May 2013 Headquaters: Singapore

Representative: Mitsunobu Okada

Business: Space debris removal, orbital services, and other business related to outer space

#### 2. Overview of investment

Authorized investment: US\$35 million (maximum)

Amount invested: US\$25.2 million (as the milestone)

Co-investors: funds operated by SBI Investment Co., Ltd.and Mitsubishi Estate Co., Ltd.

Announcement of investment decision: October 31, 2018

Shareholding ratio: Undisclosed Details of previous investments:

- Investment announcement: March 1, 2016

- Press release:

https://www.incj.co.jp/english/news/upload/docs/6050cd4d3a70ae26c1a6ba55f3880f9da19634f6.pdf

- Investment structure diagram: See appendix

#### 3. Significance of investment

#### Supporting a social need

- · Contribute to solving the international issue of space debris, a major obstacle to the development of the space industry.
- Supports the development of private-sector space industry, defends the micro-satellite manufacturing technology and space debris removal technology of competitive Japanese companies, and helps expand future space-related R&D by helping solve the space debris issue.

#### **Growth potential**

- Help create value in space-related industries through the development of space debris removal technology and the establishment of a business model based on Japanese space and satellite technology.
- Contribute to the growth of space-related industries by providing leading technology and a business model that can solve the issue of space debris.

#### Innovation

- Astroscale is a space-industry startup that brings together Japanese management and space and satellite technology
- Through this investment, INCJ is contributing to the development of the elemental technology necessary for space debris removal (such as adhesives, sensors, and control technology) through the collaboration of Japanese academia and companies engaged in space-related industries, and to the development of innovative space debris removal technology and the establishment of an effective business model.

#### 4. Statement from the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (September 19, 2018)

This investment is significant in that it will lead to the achievement of a space-debris removal business using Japanese micro satellite technology and make a significant contribution to the sustainable development of space industry. It will also contribute to strengthening Japan's international competitiveness.

INCJ aims to provide appropriate support to promote R&D activity in Japan and enable Japan to contribute to the expansion of space-related industries.

Furthermore, when considering a future exit from this investment, INCJ will do so in close coordination with METI and in a manner that benefits the development of Japan's space industry.

## **Astroscale**



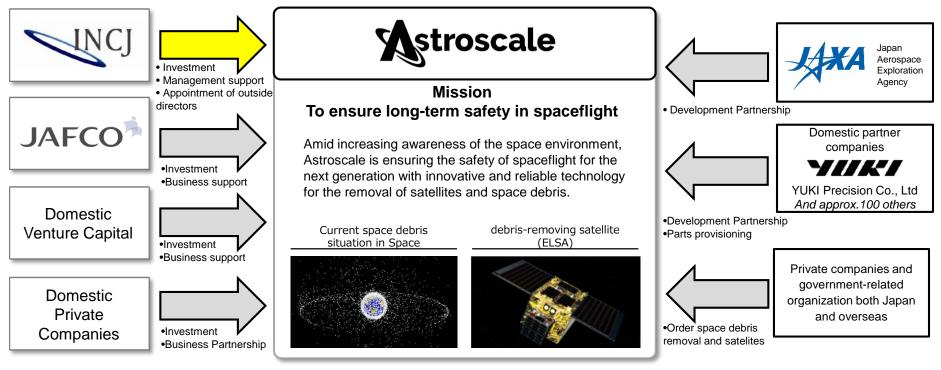
Target: Astroscale Pte. Ltd.

Outline: Development of space debris\* removal technologies and other space-related services

Authorized investment: USD 30 million (maximum)/USD 35 million (maximum)

Announcement date of investment: March 1, 2016/October 31, 2018

\*Space debris includes decommissioned satellites, spent rocket stages and other orbiting inoperative manmade objects or fragments of such objects produced through collisions



- Contribute to the resolution of the space debris issue that is increasingly threatening development of the space industry, by supporting Astroscale to develop new technology, demonstrate its effectiveness, and structure a robust business model
- Support satellite technology development and contribute to value creation in space-related industries

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