

Orbital systems  
Satellites  
Transversal competencies



The mission of the French-German company is to democratize space exploration for space and non-space industries. To realize this mission, The Exploration Company develops, manufactures, and operates Nyx, a modular and reusable orbital vehicle which can be refueled in orbit. Nyx serves the low Earth orbit (LEO) and lunar destinations and starts with carrying cargo, with the growth potential to fly humans in the future. The Exploration Company was founded in 2021 by experienced engineers and has recently announced their successful Series A Fundraising of 40.5 M€.

## COMPETENCIES & CAPABILITIES

The Exploration Company is the first space exploration enterprise in the world to be privately funded. They are the first company in Europe to reuse their space capsule and the first in the world to use green propellants for such a large space capsule. They are also second in the world to work on cryogenic refueling in Oxygen and Methane for a spacecraft. Finally, they are first in the world to use an open-source operating system and second in the world to use the same core and modular architecture to fit as many destinations as possible (stations around Earth, around the Moon and lunar surface). The company has staffed 50+ professionals with overall 500+ years of space experience.



# The Exploration Company

## PRODUCTS & SERVICES

The Exploration Company's business model is centred around space logistics: Our spacecraft *Nyx* has the capacity to carry goods, fuel - and in the future, humans - to space stations and lunar surface, and bring them safely back on Earth. Their clients include space agencies and future space stations, but also private clients willing to unleash the potential of space for medical research, developing new materials, and entertainment. Their prototype capsule, *Mission Possible*, will fly in 2024 and is already sold out. The vehicle *Nyx* has three core innovations. Firstly, their spacecraft will make use of green propellants using their in-house developed thrusters. Secondly, their capsule can be reused after entry up to 6 times. Thirdly, their use of Cryogenic orbital engine using Bio-Methane and Oxygen. This engine, called *Huracan*, can be refueled in orbit, can throttle – for lunar landing – and uses an electric pump cycle. *Nyx* will provide an orbital flight service, including power provision, a stable thermal environment, pressurized and unpressurized compartments, and data connection to its customers.

## MAJOR SPACE PROJECTS & REFERENCES

The Exploration Company Mission Roadmap:

- 2023: Mission *Bikini*, ballistic re-entry demonstrator, flying with Ariane 6 maiden flight.
- 2024: Mission *Possible*, first recovery demonstrator flying with payloads from clients, flying with SpaceX Falcon9.
- 2026: Mission *Odyssey*, maiden flight of *Nyx Earth*.
- 2028: *Nyx Moon*, maiden flight of *Nyx Moon*.

They currently serve customers such as Airbus, Nanoracks, ESA, CNES & DLR with technology demonstrations in Low-Earth Orbit and on the Moon.

## POINT OF CONTACT

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**TURNOVER:** 0.1 M€ (estimated in 2022)

**WORK FORCE:** 51 employees

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