

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The SpaceRISE consortium, consisting of Eutelsat S.A., Hispasat S.A., and SES Astra, signed two important agreements in December 2024: the Concession Agreement with the European Commission and the Partnership Project Contract (PP Contract) with the European Space Agency (ESA). The consortium will be responsible to design, deliver, and operate the Infrastructure for Resilience, Interconnectivity, and Security by Satellite (IRIS<sup>2</sup>) over the next twelve years.

The IRIS<sup>2</sup> Satellite Constellation is the European Union's third flagship, addressing long-term challenges of EU's security, safety, and resilience by offering enhanced connectivity services to governmental users.

The new multi-orbital constellation will combine the benefits offered by Medium Earth Orbit (MEO) and Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites. It is set to provide secure connectivity services to the European Union and its Member States as well as broadband connectivity for governmental authorities, private companies and European citizens, while ensuring high-speed internet broadband to cope with connectivity dead zones.

The SpaceRISE consortium is supported by its Core Team of European subcontractors from the satcom ecosystem, including OHB System AG.

To select the MEO satellite prime subcontractors, SpaceRISE has initiated Competitive Dialogues with two of its Core Team members, OHB System AG and Thales Alenia Space France.

OHB System AG is one of the key partners in SpaceRISE Core Team and OHB System AG is considered as of today a potential Satellite and Platform Prime for the IRIS<sup>2</sup> MEO 24 Satellites constellation.

IRIS<sup>2</sup> project will be part of the Telecom Business Line of OHB System AG. OHB System AG as the largest company focusing on Large System Integration (LSI), is a well-known European satellite prime working for all institutional and commercial entities in Europe. OHB System AG has sites in Germany in Bremen and close to Munich and employs almost 2.000 people focusing on all disciplines of space systems engineering as well as MAIT.

In line with the IRIS<sup>2</sup> Regulation,<sup>1</sup> at least 30 % of the value of the Concession Agreement shall be subcontracted by competitive tendering at various levels of subcontracting to companies outside the group of the prime tenderer, in particular in order to enable the cross-border participation of SMEs in the space ecosystem. In addition, pursuant to the ESA PP Contract, unless otherwise authorised by ESA, all Subcontractors shall be selected in competition.

In order to ensure the widest participation from the European industry to the Programme, the section below is intended to provide transparency on the anticipated procurements to be launched by OHB System AG for the MEO scope.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2023/588 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2023 establishing the Union Secure Connectivity Programme for the period 2023-2027, OJ L 79, 17.3.2023, p. 1.

## 2 PROCUREMENTS TO BE LAUNCHED BY OH B SYSTEM AG - MEO SCOPE

### 2.1 Procurements to be launched by OH B System AG

OH B System AG has identified the following equipment to be procured in competition.

**Table 2-1: Overall OH B MEO Procurement Plan**

No.	Satellite Equipment
1.	BATTERY
2.	Power Conditioning and Distribution Unit (PCDU)
3.	Solar Array (SA)
4.	Solar Array Drive Mechanism (SADM)
5.	Harness
6.	On Board Computer (OBC)
7.	K-Band Receiver + K-Band Transmitter (KBR+KBT)
8.	KA-Band Antenna (KBA)
9.	Star Tracker
10	Coarse Sun Sensor (CSS)
11	Reaction Wheel (RW)
12	Magnet Torquer (MTQ)
13	Magnetometer (MGM)
14	EPPS String
15	Tanks
16	Propellant
17	Multi-Layer Insulation (MLI)
18	Loop Heat Pipes (LHP)
19	Alu Panels

No.	Satellite Equipment
20	Radiator Panels
21	HDRM
22	Launcher Adapter
23	Environmental Testing (EVT)
24	EGSE Power
25	EGSE TTC
26	EGSE AOCS
27	EGSE GNSS
28	MGSE Transport Container
29	MGSE Integration Stand

At this stage, this list and dates are indicative only and subject to changes. Procurement actions will be published in due time. OH B System AG will not answer requests in areas not specifically identified in published RFPs.

## 2.2 ESA PP MEO Scope

While the final providers for the MEO may only be selected in Q2 2026, the procurements of some critical Long Lead Items and early development activities may need to be initiated in advance to ensure the schedule is maintained. As a result, the section below is intended to provide transparency on the anticipated procurements to be launched by OH B System AG for the MEO scope under the ESA PP Contract.

This High level Procurement plan is announcements on esa-star news to ensure the widest participation of the European industry. Economic operators, registered within the Participating States to the Element 1 of the ESA Programme related to EU Secure Connectivity<sup>2</sup> and fulfilling the Eligibility and Participation Conditions for IRIS<sup>2</sup> as set out in Article 22 of the IRIS<sup>2</sup> Regulation and further detailed in Section 5.1 of Phase I EU Tender Specifications,<sup>2</sup> will be required to formally express their interest to OH B System AG to receive the RFI documentation (contact details will be included in the RFIs announcements themselves).

As part of the RFI process, interested economic operators will be invited to submit short proposals, which will be evaluated in accordance with the evaluation criteria outlined in the RFIs. OH B System AG will only invite those interested economic operators whose short proposal received the best marking to participate in the subsequent stages of the procurement process (maximum number of invited economic operators will vary depending on the specific tender).

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<sup>2</sup> Available at the TED eTendering website: <https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=13625>

Table 2-2 OH B MEO ESA PP WPs

No.	Title of open tenders currently identified	High level Description
1.	High Performance Large Size Radiator Panel Development and POC	<p>The thermal design of the IRIS<sup>2</sup> MEO platform requires a quite complex network of heat pipes with implication in the capability of suppliers to manufacture.</p> <p>Based on OH B suppliers heritage, it is considered of importance to extend this capability.</p> <p>Perform coupon-level testing taken from the engineering model to assess mechanical properties of radiator panel. This is necessary to characterize the radiator for future use.</p> <p>The engineering Model will be also submitted to a thermal test.</p>
2.	Separation System Development and Qualification	<p>Although OH B is pursuing to embark off-the-shelf equipment, some adaptations are required to cover MEOCOM needs. This adaptation requires design activities and breadboarding.</p>
3.	MEO Thruster Development and Testing	<p>The thruster delta-development of several MEO Thrusters is already ongoing. To speed up that development, early test activities with a breadboard model shall be performed.</p>
4.	MEO PPU Architecture Consolidation	<p>To develop and qualify a PPU matching the IRIS<sup>2</sup> MEO needs and to be coupled with selected MEO thruster.</p> <p>Part of this development activity is the development of a thruster emulator at a third party.</p> <p>The emulator shall support first the PPU development and thereafter support the satellite avionics validation as part of the satellite flat sat.</p>
5.	MEO Solar Array PVA CVG Confidence Study	<p>Photovoltaic assembly activities related to the development of solar cell CIC and PVA needed for IRIS<sup>2</sup> MEO radiation environment.</p>

No.	Title of open tenders currently identified	High level Description
6.	PCDU Architecture Consolidation	To consolidate the architecture of the PCDU in line with the MEO needs and to improve the cost and the schedule. To derisk conditioning functions via breadboarding activities for the supplier to be selected.
7.	Loop Heat Pipes (LHP) Manufacturing and Performance Improvement	The MEO payload impose specific thermal control and constraints, where the LHP would allow to achieve the required performance. High power LHP are normally manufactured with low manufacturing cadence. The main objective is to improve the manufacturing capabilities of the LHP supplier to be able to meet the quality and schedule.
8.	MEO Thruster Life and Coupling Test	A dedicated life test using the propellant and operating point intended for IRIS <sup>2</sup> is essential for an ensured mission success. As parts of the electric propulsion system underlay delta development, a minimization of the mission's risk by performing coupling tests is necessary at a flight representative state.

At this stage, this list is indicative only and subject to changes and updates by many other WPs. Procurement actions will be published in due time. OHB System AG will not answer requests in areas not specifically identified in published RFIs.

## 2.3 Demonstration of interest

OHB would like to invite your company to formally express its **demonstration of interest** in participating in one or more of the Work Packages (WPs) and/or the hardware procurement activities for the **IRIS2 MEO Platform**.

As part of the ongoing procurement preparation and in alignment with ESA transparency and fairness requirements, OHB is requesting that all potential suppliers confirm their interest in contributing to any of the following areas:

- **IRIS2 MEO Platform Work Packages (WPs)**
- **Procurement of MEO Platform Hardware (MEO HW)** required for the IRIS2 mission

### 2.3.1 Requested Action

Please provide a written confirmation of your company's interest in one or more of the above-mentioned WPs or hardware procurement items. Your confirmation should include:

1. **WP(s) or hardware items of interest**
2. **Brief statement of relevant experience and capabilities**
3. **Name and contact details of your responsible representative**
4. **Any preliminary comments regarding schedule, technical constraints, or procurement approach (optional)**

### 2.3.2 Submission Deadline

Please submit your expression of interest **no later than 2 weeks after announcement on ESA Star** to the following contact:

**Alessandra Riccardo**  
**IRIS<sup>2</sup> SubContractor Manager**  
**OH B System AG**  
**Email: Alessandra.riccardo@ohb.de**

### 2.3.3 Next Steps

Following receipt of all expressions of interest, OH B will:

- Consolidate the list of interested suppliers
- Validate alignment with IRIS2 procurement needs
- Initiate follow-up discussions and share further technical or procurement documentation as applicable

This request is issued solely to confirm market interest and **does not constitute a commitment, pre-selection, or contractual obligation** by OH B. Subsequent invitations, documentation, or competitive processes—if applicable—will follow separately.

In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, please note that your personal data will be processed by OH B System AG for the sole purpose of enabling your participation and choice in the framework of the RFIs and/or RFPs and to enable OH B System AG to maintain the relationship arising from the RFIs and/or RFPs. OH B System AG may disclose your personal data to the SpaceRISE Consortium and to authorities on request.