



March 18, 2026

Subject: Endorsement of an Independent Satellite Mission - Common Space

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Decentralized Damage Mapping Group (DDMG), we write to express our strong endorsement of an independent, very-high resolution (VHR) satellite mission designed explicitly around public-interest and humanitarian principles.

DDMG's work centers on scalable, transparent analysis of damage in armed conflict settings using remote sensing, particularly satellite imagery. Across multiple conflict-affected settings, we have seen firsthand how uneven geographical coverage or constrained access to VHR imagery can impede timely assessments of civilian harm and environmental damage. A dedicated humanitarian satellite designed around global public-good principles committed to delivering openly accessible data would help close these critical gaps and enable consistent, long-term crisis monitoring.

We believe that an independent satellite mission structured around transparency, ethical governance, and open humanitarian access would represent critical infrastructure for informing evidence-based response. We encourage policymakers, funders, and technical partners to support this effort and ensure its design and deployment principally reflects the needs of affected communities around the world.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information via the correspondence author listed below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Perlman', written in a cursive style.

Brian Perlman, Research Scientist II, Spatial Informatics Group, USA*

Corey Scher

Corey Scher, Postdoctoral Researcher, Oregon State University, USA

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Saah', written in a cursive style.

David Saah, Professor, University of San Francisco, USA



He Yin, Associate Professor, Kent State University, USA



Jamon Van Den Hoek, Associate Professor, Oregon State University, USA



Jessie Pechmann, Conflict Program Lead, Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team, USA



Lama Ranjous, PhD Candidate, Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany



Lina Eklund, Associate Professor, Lund University, Sweden



Marie Schellens, independent, Belgium



Raphaela Edler, PhD Candidate, Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany



Wim Zwijnenburg, Project Leader Humanitarian Disarmament, PAX, The Netherlands

Zhanpei Fang

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