



## Epic Aerospace is building a transport network in space

### Challenge:

Epic Aerospace needed a law firm partner to draft their provisional patent application on a short deadline before the company's Seed fundraising round while reducing the IP burden for the solo founder.

### Outcome:

Cognition IP drafted Epic Aerospace's provisional patent application within 2 weeks without distracting the company's solo founder from major technical milestones preceding Seed funding.

### Introduction

Epic Aerospace is a startup company that builds reusable space tugs to deliver satellites into geostationary orbit. Space tugs are small spacecrafts designed to nudge space cargo from one orbit into another. The space tugs manufactured by EPIC transfer satellites from low-Earth orbit (LEO) directly to geostationary orbit (GEO). A geosynchronous orbit, often referred to as a geosynchronous equatorial orbit, is a high-Earth orbit above the equator. Satellites in GEO match the Earth's rotation, and the positioning is valuable for monitoring weather, communications, and surveillance.

*"At Epic Aerospace, we want to build the physical layer for a network of satellites in space,"* says Ignacio Alejandro Belieres Montero. The startup's CEO is only twenty-one years of age. The young pioneer studied Aeronautics & Astronautics at Stanford's School of Engineering before dropping out of the university in 2019 to found Epic Aerospace.

### The beginnings of an EPIC adventure

The solo founder's overall goal is to build the world's first space transportation network. The concept isn't new, but it's incredibly ambitious. NASA envisioned their Space Transportation System (STS) in 1969 and explored reusable space tugs into the early 1970s. Eventually, budget cuts blocked the funding of the STS program. Now, private companies are developing reusable space technologies and vying for orbital space.

Ignacio thinks that a future involving a space transportation network is not far off. *"Soon, anyone will be able to launch a satellite into space,"* says the founder. Certainly, Epic Aerospace is paving the way for such a reality with its space tugs, which are reusable and available at a low cost. The company's space tugs are launched into space by a two-stage-to-orbit (TSTO) vehicle where they then serve the purpose of transferring satellites into their final orbit. Afterward, the tugs refuel and repeat this process.

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Ignacio Alejandro Belieres Montero  
- Founder and CEO, Epic Aerospace

“I couldn’t ask for a better law firm partner. The Cognition IP team shares every startup founder’s values: they are innovative, fast, professional, and thorough.”

Epic Aerospace was one of the revolutionary young startups accepted into Y Combinator’s Summer 2019 batch. The company’s founder recognized immediately that IP protection would be essential for partnerships and fundraising. Ignacio explains, *“We needed to file a provisional patent application to be able to discuss our technology with potential partners and investors who wanted to make sure that our IP was fully protected.”* But the founder also had very little time to devote to the patent application process, outside of selecting the best law firm partner for the company. Ignacio describes this dilemma saying, *“I had many technical milestones to meet before raising our Seed round following YC Demo Day. I knew that IP protection would be critical from an investor perspective, but I could not afford much back and forth during the patent application process. I needed a partner with expertise in the same technology area to execute the filing successfully.”* Furthermore, the law firm partner needed to understand the long-term vision of Epic Aerospace to demonstrate how the technology differs from the advances of previous companies.

### Cognition IP removes IP burden from solo founder to draft patent in 2 weeks

In 2019, Epic Aerospace found the right law firm partner and began working with Cognition IP. Ignacio was impressed with the experience of Cognition IP’s legal team, especially related to aeronautics. The partnership process was seamless and effectively removed the IP burden from the solo founder. Says Ignacio, *“Cognition IP completely removed the hassle of protecting Epic Aerospace’s IP. Not only that, they were able to file our patent application much more efficiently than other law firms. Most importantly, the team was able to identify our exact focus related to networking spacecraft in orbit and represent our technology impeccably.”*

Cognition IP streamlined the patent filing process for Epic Aerospace, just as the startup was entering discussions about funding with potential investors. Ignacio provided an invention disclosure to Cognition IP, and the Cognition IP team turned the document into a patent application in less than 2 weeks. The expedited filing allowed Epic Aerospace to meet its deadlines for IP to talk with investors and business partners in the space industry without risk of the company’s IP being stolen.

### Epic Aerospace closes Seed round of financing with strong IP portfolio

Epic Aerospace successfully closed their Seed round of fundraising. The company’s IP portfolio was an important topic of discussion with VC firms. Ignacio endorses his continued partnership with the Cognition IP team saying, *“I couldn’t ask for a better law firm partner. The Cognition IP team shares every startup founder’s values: they are innovative, fast, professional, and thorough.”*