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THE IGMASS PROJECT – NEW APPROACH TO NATURAL AND MAN-MADE DISASTER
MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Abstract

The International Global Monitoring Aerospace System (IGMASS) Project is an initiative of Russian scientific and public organizations to design a “system of systems” for effective early warning of international community about global risks and threats, including dangerous events of space origin. Primary goal of IGMASS is disaster warning through investigation of its precursors in order to preserve human lives and mitigate consequent negative effects. IGMASS has been actively promoted within the past two years under the auspices of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA). Conception background of the Project consists in the opportunity to reveal so-called “premonitory symptoms” of natural and man-made disasters by using space, air and land-based equipment and forecast disaster or emergency events on this basis. Currently the first (pilot) phase of the IGMASS Project carried out in Russia is limited to two or three main precursors, reliably fixed from the space. Russian scientists and engineers of JSC “Russian Space Systems” have achieved real success in this area through using disaster precursor detection methods to predict catastrophes with high probability. The paper presents the above mentioned and other (including humanitarian) aspects of IGMASS implementation.