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Legal Aspects of Space Debris Remediation (4)

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JAPANESE CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPACE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS (SSA)

**Abstract**

Space situational awareness (SSA) is now becoming one of the international concerns among space powers. The importance of this SSA was recognized by some incidents, such as Chinese Anti Satellite (ASAT) test in 2007, the collision of the US Iridium satellite with the disabled Cosmos satellite of Russia in 2009 and so on. Those incidents brought over 5,000 space debris on the Low Earth Orbit. Moreover, the observation of orbital satellites and celestial objects on Near Earth Orbit (NEO), as well as the space weather forecast such as solar winds are becoming also important for our space activities. Japan has paid her attention mainly on the observation of space debris, satellites and NEO objects as well as space environment monitoring for space weather forecasting for a decade. Those activities have been done by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), Japan Space Forum (JSF) and National Institute of Information and Communication Technology (NICT). Though Japanese contribution to these SSA fields was limited, the cooperation between Europe (European Union (EU) and European Space Agency (ESA)) is being deepened. Additionally, Japan just started the bilateral cooperation with US in SSA activities. In this paper, authors will outline Japanese present situation on SSA and examine the feasibility of Japanese SSA contribution in the near future.