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Policy, Legal, Institutional and Economic Aspects of Space Debris Detection, Mitigation and Removal
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PERSPECTIVES FROM A VENTURE SPACE COMPANY ON REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS FOR
ADDRESSING SPACE DEBRIS

Abstract

The combination of expected decreases in costs for launch services and satellite manufacturing is leading to a proliferation of new players in the space industry and a democratization of activities in low Earth orbit (LEO). This increase in the number of satellites will necessitate new and creative thinking to monitor and regulate an already congested, contested and competitive orbital environment.

ASTROSCALE is one of the few companies in the world proposing to aide in the removal of orbital debris through the provision of End of Life and Active Debris Removal services. In addition to providing a technical solution, ASTROSCALE is playing an active role in a variety of discussion groups that include national space agencies, international institutions, non-profit organizations, insurance companies and satellite operators to develop norms, regulations and incentives that contribute to the responsible use of space.

This paper will provide an overview of the various actors involved in monitoring and regulating LEO activities, highlighting the role of the private sector, including both venture and established space companies. We will additionally propose creative solutions for maintaining a sustainable orbital environment, providing a global commons that can be safely utilized for generations.