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SPACE ASSETS, TECHNOLOGY AND SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF MARITIME SECTOR

**Abstract**

Space can be used as a tool for business decision makers. The maritime sector is rapidly evolving as far as business and industrial activities are concerned. Space can assist in transforming this sector through satellite navigation and positioning, communications as well as earth observation. Additionally, space can be used as a tool in developing, implementing maritime affairs. This paper focuses on the role of space in transforming the maritime industry. Space technologies have been serving the maritime community for over forty years. Satellite technology is becoming increasingly important for a wide range of maritime activities through enhanced navigation accuracy, marine environmental monitoring and maritime surveillance. For this reason, agreements between the European Space Agency (ESA) and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), have been signed in 2007 and 2010, strengthening the framework for cooperation between the two agencies for the use of space-based systems in support of maritime activities. The first part of the paper summarises maritime related policy areas where space assets can contribute to achieve their objectives. The second part of the paper addresses how space initiatives and programs could contribute and support the maritime sector in Europe.