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KEYNOTE: PRACTICAL DEBRIS MITIGATION MANUAL FOR DEVELOPERS OF MICROSATELLITES AND SMALLER

Abstract

Orbital debris mitigation is becoming increasingly important as the popularity of using small satellites by governments, industry and academia is increasing. Improvements in technology and reducing the cost of access to space have made it easier to deploy space missions. Small satellite systems can provide significant benefit to STEM research, providing governments with infrastructure and information, and make some new applications financially viable for commercial companies. However the Earth orbital environment is a limited resource, and requires coordination and careful understanding in small satellite implementation in order to ensure long term sustainability of these activities.

The IAA has formulated a study group to bring together a range of advice and practical steps that can be taken to help new and more experienced developers of micro, nano and picosatellites (and smaller) understand their obligations, international guidelines, standards, and national laws related to ensuing they sustainably develop their small satellite missions. The group includes key experts and interest groups, and the outputs will be captured in a manual which will be made openly available.