

IAF SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE SECURITY (E9)
Political, Legal, Institutional and Economic Aspects of Space Debris Mitigation and Removal - STM
Security (1-A6.8)

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DUAL-USE AND STM: CIVILIAN-MILITARY COOPERATION STRATEGIES AND SPACE
SECURITY

Abstract

Space Traffic Management (STM) has gained relevance in regional and global strategies when there is more significant congestion in space. Ongoing discussions in the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) and other fora culminated with the 2018 Space Policy Directive-3 on National Space Traffic Management Policy. More recently, STM was underlined in the EU-ESA Space Council Orientations November 2020 as part of the European ambitions to achieve strategic autonomy. In February 2021, the European Commission launched STM as a flagship project under its' Action Plan on Synergies' between the civil, defense, and space industries, aiming to reinforce the European industry's competitiveness. In this regard, STM entails several technological, socio-economic, and regulatory dimensions with significant security implications as reflected in national and regional strategies. This paper focuses on a critical element: the cooperation between the civilian and the military and how organizations effectively address the dual-use aspect concerning STM development under the current legal and regulatory framework. Moreover, it examines how the dual-use element of STM influences space security and commercialization of space technologies. Successful strategies with tangible outcomes require effective cooperation between the civilian and military actors. Hence, this paper seeks to identify potential legal and regulatory barriers and proposes solutions to accommodate divergent strategic interests and needs in STM future strategies.