

IAF SYMPOSIUM ON SECURITY, STABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF SPACE ACTIVITIES  
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Interactive Presentations - IAF SYMPOSIUM ON SECURITY, STABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY  
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AN OVERVIEW OF THE UK SPACE AGENCY'S SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITIES

**Abstract**

We are at a critical juncture in space sustainability. With almost 37,000 space debris objects measuring over 10cm estimated to be in orbit, and 1 million measuring 1-10cm, reactive and proactive measures must be urgently taken by space nations to reduce the global footprint on Earth's orbit.

The UK Space Agency is taking a multifaceted approach to space sustainability by investing in a portfolio of initiatives. These encompass technology development, research, regulation and best practice, finance and insurance, and thought leadership, including:

- technology development for a national debris removal mission and other In-Orbit Servicing Manufacturing (IOSM) capabilities such as refuelling;
- funding novel research in key areas such as the potential environmental impact of satellites entering Earth's atmosphere (atmospheric ablation);
- finalising plans for the UK National Space Operations Centre which will combine civil and military space awareness and protection capabilities;
- regulatory reform through a consultation aimed at incentivising the adoption of more sustainable missions through variable liability limits and licence fees;
- supporting development of Space Sustainability Standards through the industry-led Earth Space Sustainability Initiative;
- collaborating with global partners through international fora such as UN-COPUOS and IADC, joint projects and sharing of best practice; and
- demonstrating thought leadership through targeted national and international events, such as co-hosting the UK IOSM Conference with the Satellite Applications Catapult (May 2024) and sponsoring the Summit for Space Sustainability (July 2024).

Through this presentation, the UK Space Agency will share further information on the above activities, discuss plans for the future, and seek global perspectives and interest in collaboration. Space sustainability is not a competition to prove one country's technological, political or economic capabilities – as we journey deeper into the cosmos, we must all embrace this opportunity for progress and innovation, ensuring a legacy of responsible space stewardship that will benefit future generations.