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Policy, Legal, Institutional, Economic and Security Aspects of Debris Mitigation, Debris Remediation and
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THE RELEVANCE OF SECURED TRANSACTIONS LAW IN DEBRIS MITIGATION,
REMEDICATION, AND STM

Abstract

The increasing congestion of near-Earth space with debris poses a significant threat to both current space operations and the sustainable expansion of human activities in space. As the volume of space debris continues to grow, with defunct satellites, spent rocket stages, and the fragments from their collisions, the need for effective debris mitigation and remediation strategies becomes more urgent. This paper explores the relevance of secured transactions law, particularly in the context of space traffic management (STM) and the broader efforts to address space debris challenges.

Several applications of secured transactions law are relevant to space debris mitigation, remediation, and STM. This paper will examine the benefits of an efficient and effective system of secured transactions law can have towards incentivising private actors to conduct space debris remediation missions, including the option to unlock additional financing for their operations.

By establishing clear rights and interests in space assets, an effective secured transactions law regime can provide a foundation for liability and insurance schemes that allocate risk more effectively among space actors. This, in turn, can incentivise the adoption of best practices in debris mitigation and enhance overall space safety.

In conclusion, secured transactions law offers valuable tools and frameworks that can be adapted to address the challenges of space debris mitigation, remediation, and STM. By leveraging the principles of secured financing, stakeholders can incentivise responsible space behaviours, facilitate innovative debris removal technologies, and enhance international cooperation in space traffic management. This paper will explore all of these items. As the space sector continues to evolve, the integration of secured transactions law into space policy and governance will be important in ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.