



Press Release by

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ESA's "Zero Debris Charter" finalized – HPS among the first to sign

Initiated by ESA's office for "Strategy and Transformation" a considerable group of European space companies, including HPS, got together in order to jointly draft and now implement this continent's set of rules for sustainable use of space. HPS is one of the first companies to sign the document on November 7th, 2023. Though legally non-binding, the "Zero Debris Charter" aims at putting an end to the inconsiderate and irresponsible pollution of space with tech-junk. In detail, the Charter clearly names the following targets:

1. The probability of space debris generation through collisions and break-ups should remain below 1 in 1,000 per object during the entire orbital lifetime. A suitable aggregate probability threshold for constellations of satellites in the low Earth orbit region should be identified.
2. Timely clearance of low Earth orbit and geostationary Earth orbit regions should be achieved with a probability of success of at least 99% after end of mission, including through external means when necessary.
3. The casualty risk from re-entering objects should remain significantly lower than 1 in 10,000, striving towards zero casualty. A suitable aggregate risk threshold for constellations of satellites in the low Earth orbit region should be identified.
4. Routine and transparent information sharing should be facilitated and active participation in strengthening global space traffic coordination mechanisms should be encouraged.
5. Access to timely and accurate data on space objects down to a size of 5 cm or smaller in low Earth orbit and 20 cm or smaller in geostationary Earth orbit should be improved to enhance decision making capabilities for collision avoidance. *

Ernst K. Pfeiffer, CEO of HPS at the signature ceremony: "In our days now space is rapidly developing into the most important resource for the implementation of new technologies shaping our future on Earth. All efforts to preserve space from the beginning are therefore nothing less than efforts to preserve the fundamental conditions of life and its prosperity for humankind's generations to come."

*For more see:

* <https://esoc.esa.int/zero-debris-community-update>

* https://www.esa.int/Space_Safety/Clean_Space/World-first_Zero_Debris_Charter_goes_live

* https://www.esa.int/Space_Safety/Clean_Space/ESA_s_Zero_Debris_approach

* https://www.esa.int/Space_Safety/Clean_Space/The_Zero_Debris_Charter