ACCORD

Alignment of Capability and Capacity for the Objective of Reducing Debris

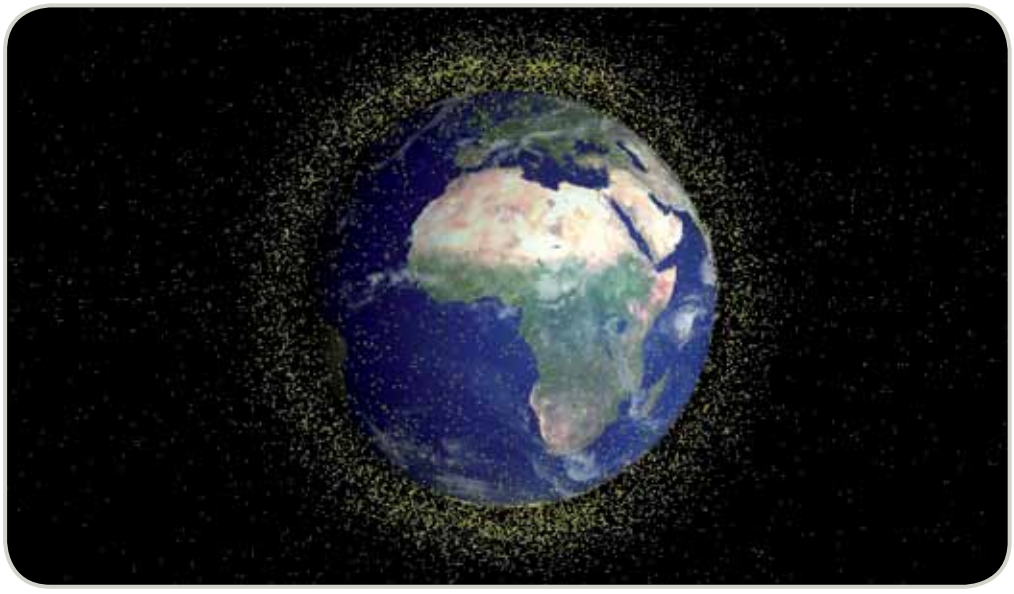
TAKING ON DEBRIS IN SPACE

Space debris is known to represent a significant risk to satellite operations. Nearly 20,000 objects larger than 10 cm are known to exist whilst the number of smaller particles greatly exceeds this. Even impacts from centimetre-size particles can result in the loss of a spacecraft. The ACCORD project addresses this significant challenge.

Collisions between large objects in space can produce thousands of potentially hazardous fragments larger than 1 cm, and these events are expected to become the primary source of space debris in the future. Clearly, it is important to protect Europe's space infrastructure and the adoption of space debris mitigation guidelines is a key part of this process. However, the capability of European space industry to apply these guidelines is limited by financial and technological constraints, amongst others. The ACCORD project aims to quantify the effectiveness of current mitigation efforts, identify the opportunities to strengthen European capability and to communicate these key findings to European and non-European space industry and governments.

The study is a diagnostic and alignment mechanism in support of Europe's space industry. Its objective is to survey and review the capability and capacity of industry's ability to implement measures that reduce debris creation. In doing so, the study will provide useful insights in support of EU policy and possible future international guidelines aimed at curbing debris proliferation with a view to stabilising the near-Earth environment and securing future European access to space.

HUGH **LEWIS**
IS PROJECT COORDINATOR



DEBRIS_2001_SOUTHAMPTON © ACCORD

ACCORD presents a method to help identify, quantify and remove the barriers to effective space debris mitigation.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What do you want to achieve with this project?

By working closely with European industry, governments and other organisations, we hope to achieve an improved understanding of issues limiting the adoption of mitigation measures and to identify opportunities to improve our capability in this crucial area.

Why is this project important for Europe?

Europe plays a key role in space, in terms of utilisation and guiding policy. Space debris is a challenge in both domains. We expect our ACCORD project to support Europe's role into the future by learning about the obstacles faced by European space industry.

How does your work benefit European citizens?

European citizens depend on space-based services; it is ubiquitous and embedded into everyday life – weather forecasts, sat-nav, for example. Therefore, protecting and improving European space infrastructure through projects such as ACCORD is vital.

ACCORD

Alignment of Capability and Capacity for the Objective of Reducing Debris

LIST OF PARTNERS

- University of Southampton, UK
- PHS Space Ltd, UK

COORDINATOR

University of Southampton, UK

CONTACT

Hugh LEWIS
Tel: +44 23 80 59 38 80
E-mail: hglewis@soton.ac.uk

PROJECT INFORMATION

Alignment of Capability and Capacity for the Objective of Reducing Debris (ACCORD)
Contract no: 262824
Starting date: 01/12/10
Duration: 36 months
EU Contribution: € 425.114,21
Estimated total cost: € 560.744,60

COORDINATION AND SUPPORT ACTIONS