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Author: Mr. Marc Becker
DLR (German Aerospace Center), Germany, marc.becker@dlr.de

Mr. Pascal Faucher
CNES, France, pascal.faucher@cnes.fr

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EUROPEAN SPACE SURVEILLANCE & TRACKING (EU SST) – SECURITY AND DATA POLICY

Abstract

The European Space Surveillance & Tracking (EU SST) Consortium is the European Union's operational capability for safeguarding space infrastructure and contributing to global burden-sharing in the domain of Space Situational Awareness (SSA). Today, the Consortium of EU member states in cooperation with the EU Satellite Centre serves over 60 user organizations with free services, such as Collision Avoidance for over 130 satellites. The Consortium operates a growing sensor network of radars, telescopes and lasers, which remain under the authority of the member states, reflecting the dual dimension of the SSA domain. Measurements and orbit data from the contributing sensors are shared through a dedicated platform, the EU SST Database.

As the Consortium increasingly shares data through the Database on a daily basis and will be processing that data into a European catalogue precursor, the Consortium's internal Security Committee is responsible for further developing the EU SST data policy that must balance the requirements for transparency and safety of flight with security constraints linked to precise and timely information on the nature, specifications and location of certain space objects.

This paper reports on recent developments in the implementation of EU SST with regard to security and data policy. It highlights the unique governance and data sharing model of EU SST, the diverse architecture of existing SSA sharing agreements, and data security considerations.