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HOW THE ASTRONOMICAL COMMUNITY SHOULD JOIN FORCES WITH THE SPACE DEBRIS
MITIGATION COMMUNITY FOR EFFECTIVE, GLOBAL POLICY.

Abstract

The Earth-based, ground astronomical community is in crisis. Ever since mega small-satellite constellations became the winning solution for global, wifi access, the needs of the scientific community have been widely ignored. While some concessions to the small satellites were made to benefit the community, as more launch over the next few years, crucial scientific observations will decline. The Space Debris Mitigation Policy advocates are making progress in the UNOOSA and in Space Policy Directives in the United States. More work is required for preventing the risk of additional space debris in the form of global regulations and policy. This is an opportune time for the astronomical community to make requests and be heard with these small satellite constellation companies. Similar concerns within the astronomical community overlap with the space debris mitigation policy makers such as over-populating LEO to the extent that no other country or company can use it. This paper expands on the similarities the two groups can capitalize on to quickly make policy that can be agreeable to all users involved.