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Late breaking abstracts (LBA)

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SPACE DEBRIS LIMITATION IN LEO: A SURVEY OF RESPONSIBILITY AND INCENTIVES FROM
THE U.S. BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE

Abstract

Accumulation of debris, particularly in LEO, is already proving costly. If left unchecked, future costs of operating in space will only worsen. Industry can take a lead role in decreasing the space debris that they create, but currently lack a business case to do so. A survey was conducted of U.S. space community players, including industry, government, and academia, on responsibility and the effectiveness of incentives on debris limitation measures. With a 47.8% response rate, respondents overwhelmingly believe that industry has a responsibility to limit debris of their own making, but that company voluntary measures are insufficient to resolve the problem. Tax incentives were the most frequently chosen positive incentive while country mandate was the most frequently chosen negative incentive. Interestingly, respondents did not believe that industry competitiveness would be impacted if space debris limitation measures were implemented. Response differences between industry and the remaining respondents were not statistically significant.