



# Finnish Centre of Excellence in Research of Sustainable Space

## FORESAIL (2018 – 2025)

Director: Prof. Minna Palmroth, University of Helsinki

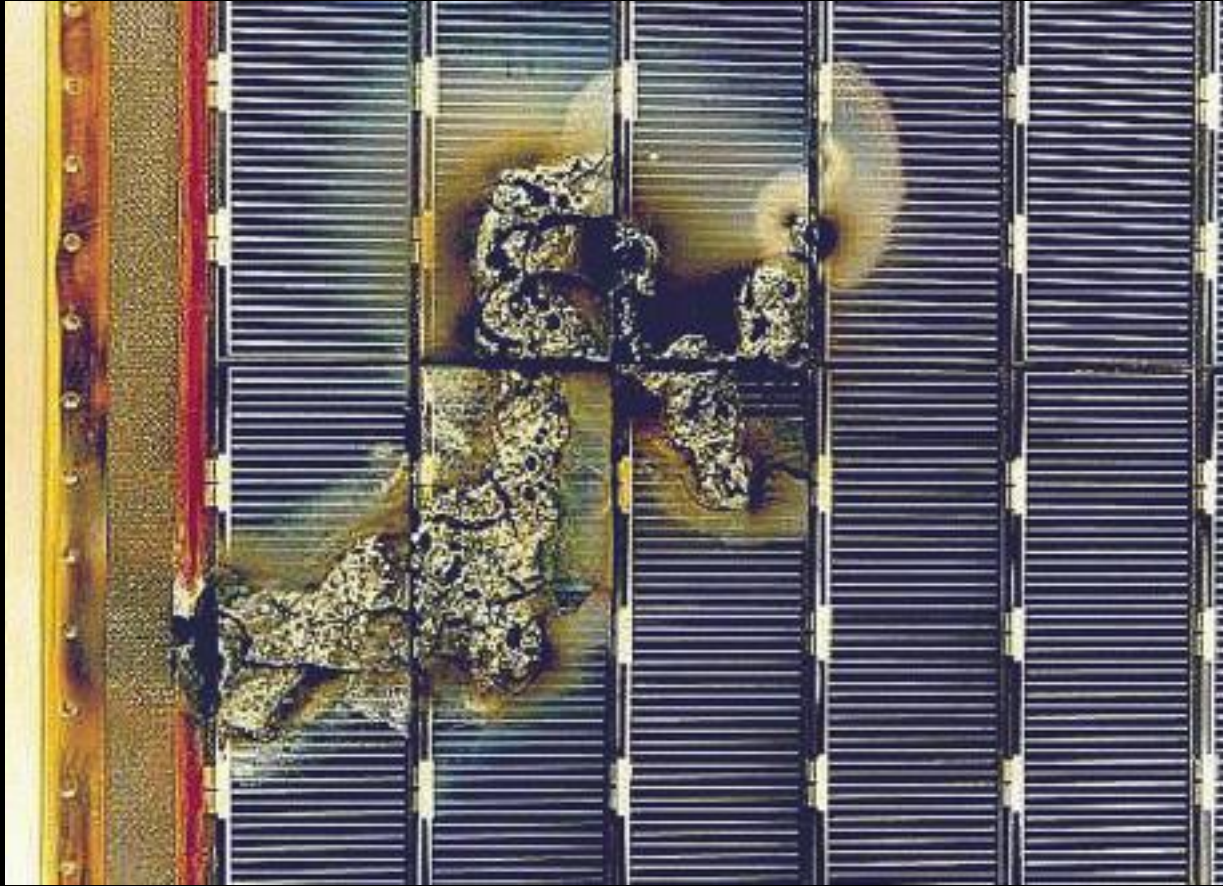
Consortium: Rami Vainio, University of Turku  
Emilia Kilpua, University of Helsinki  
Jaan Praks, Aalto University  
Pekka Janhunen, Finnish Meteorological Institute

# Background





# Space is a harsh radiation environment



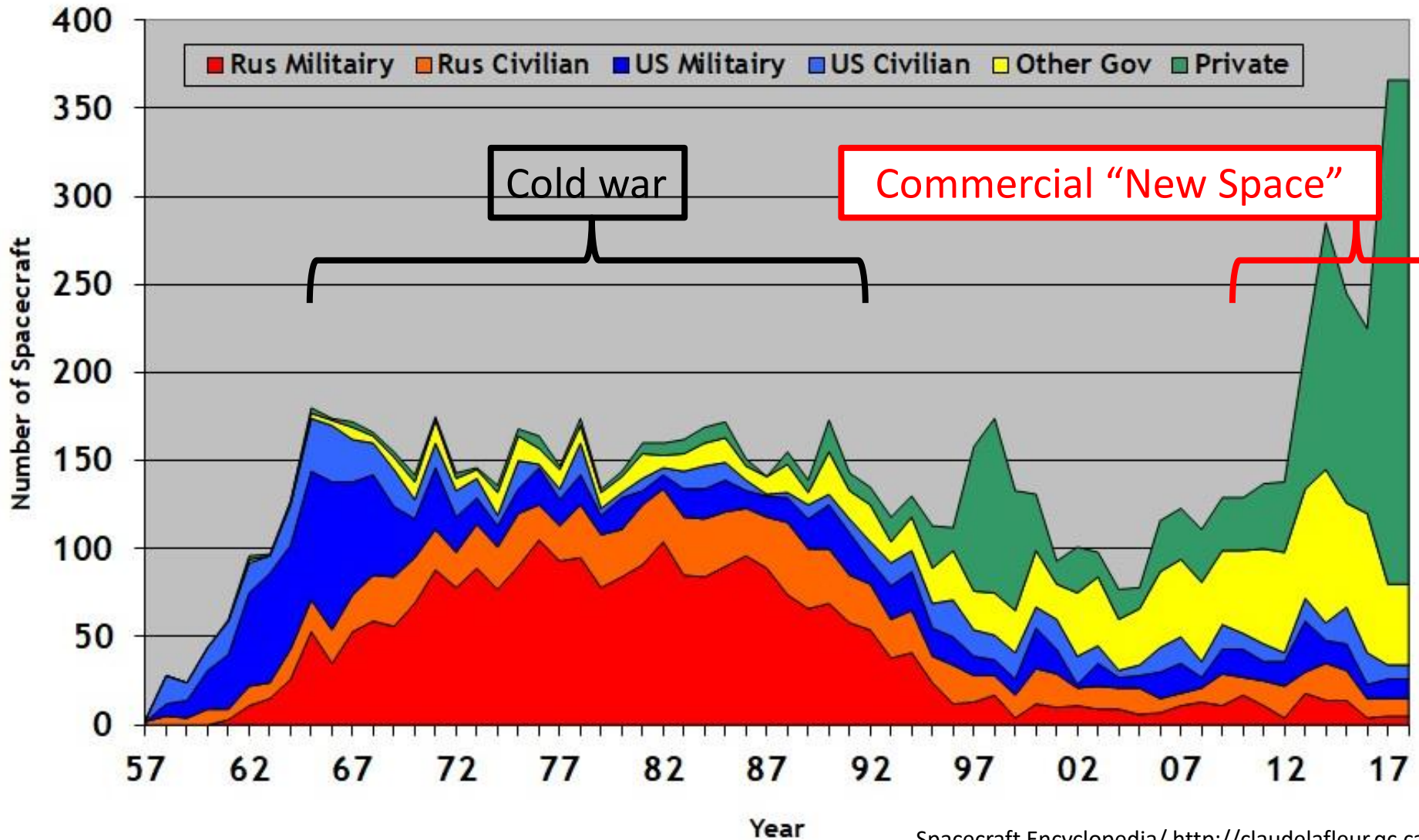
ESA EURECA satellite solar array sustained arc damage.

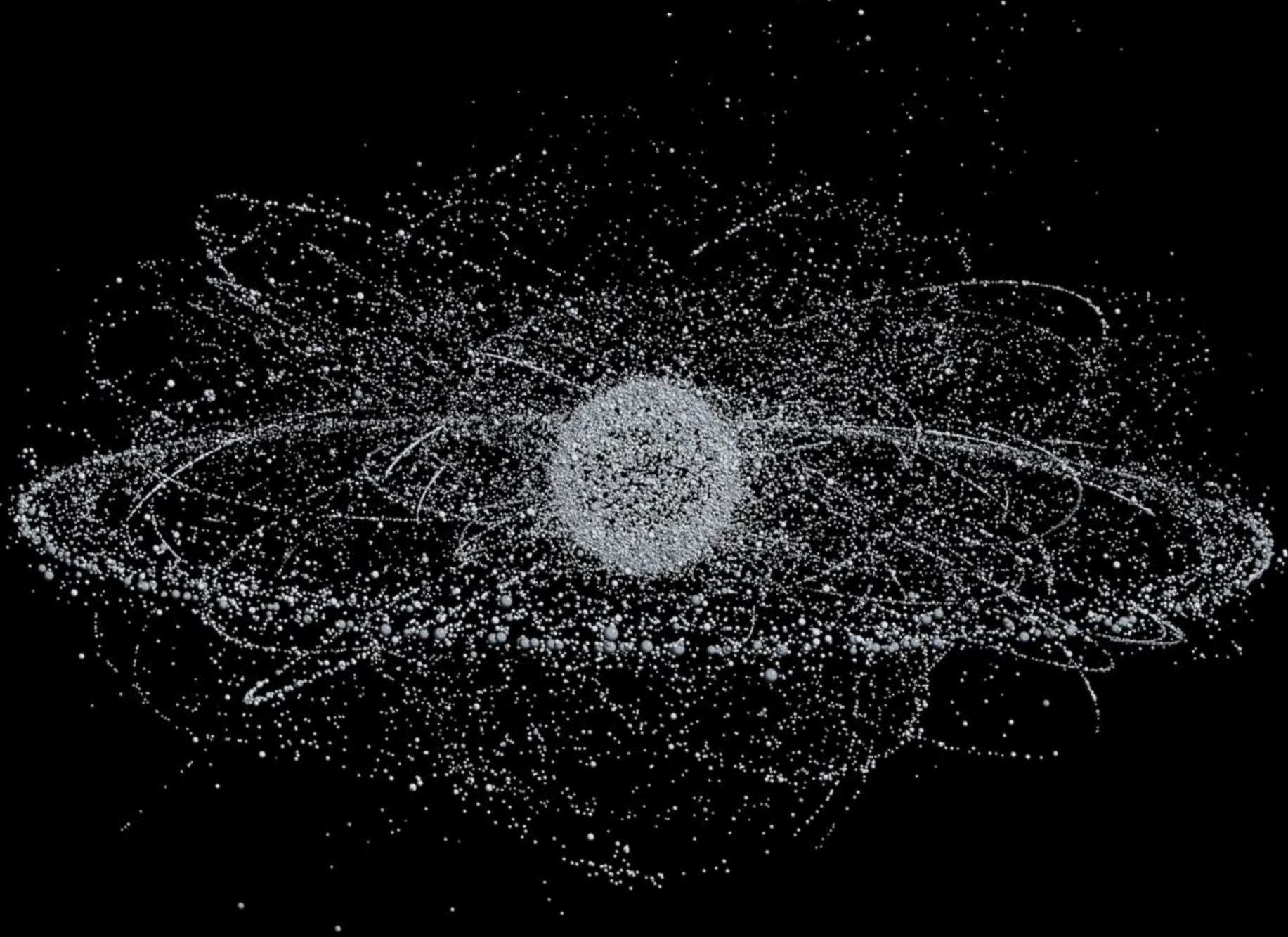
*Credits: ESA*



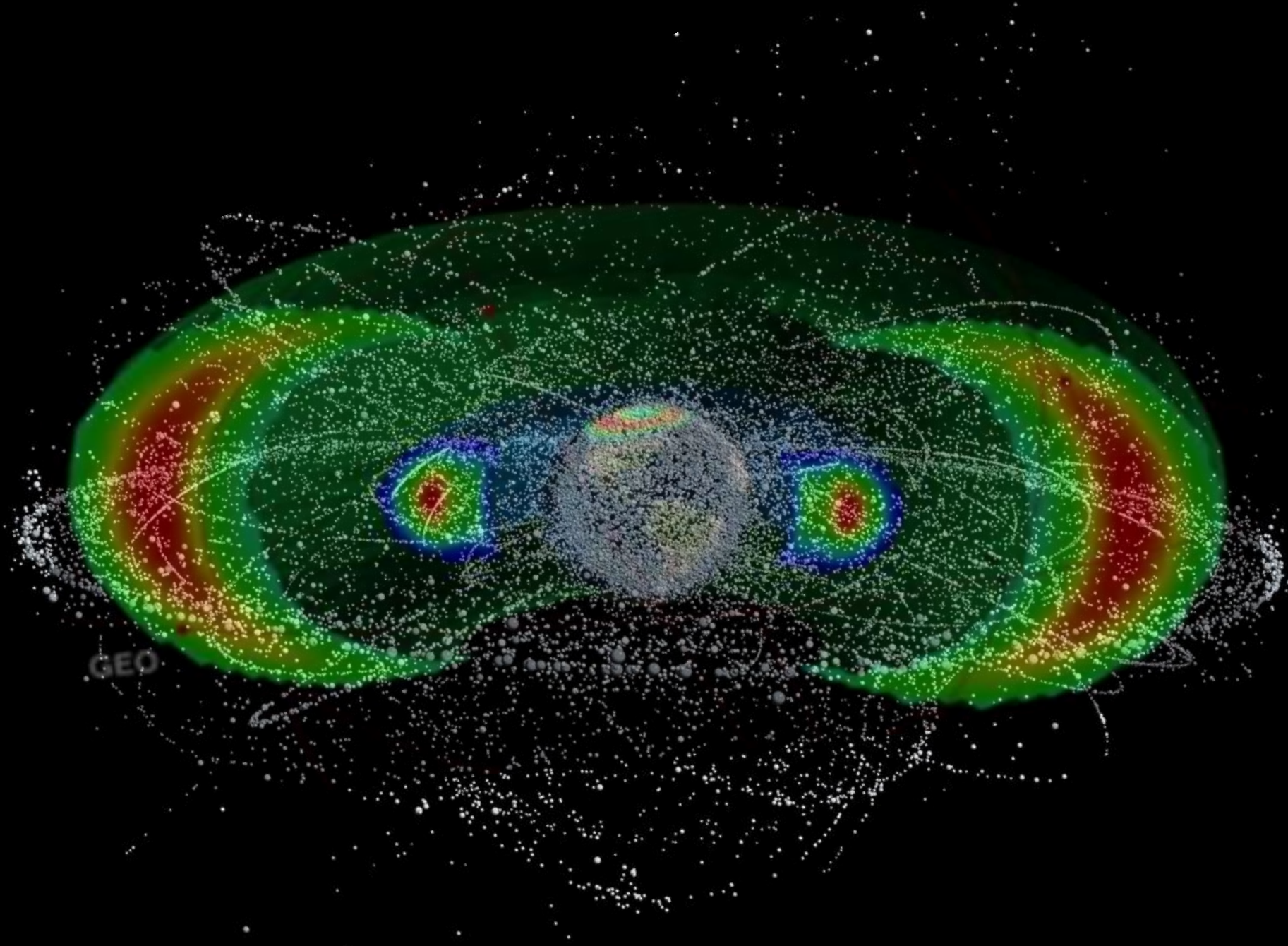
# Emerging megatrend

Number of all spacecraft launches









GEO

Genes behind embryonic  
aneuploidy *pp. 180 & 235*

Closing the Central American  
Seaway early *pp. 186 & 226*

Chemical imaging of  
membrane lipids *p. 211*

# Science

\$10  
10 APRIL 2015  
[sciencemag.org](http://sciencemag.org)

 AAAS



## *CubeSats take flight*

Cheap, miniature satellites  
democratize space *p. 172*

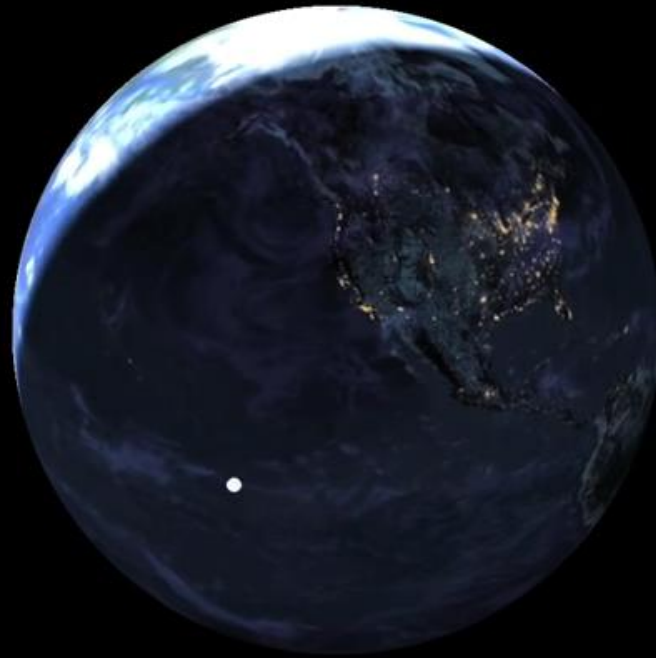






Finnish Centre of Excellence in  
Research of Sustainable Space  
– our strategy

# Number of space objects 1957 - 2015



1957

# Our Strategy

Top-tier science-based  
**resilient design**  
→ cost-efficiency

Space physics based  
**de-orbiting**  
→ cost-efficiency

- No new debris
- Prolonged lifetime
- → Cleaner orbits

CoE

Radiation  
tolerance

De-orbiting  
@ end-of-life

Sustainable  
space

Old  
paradigm

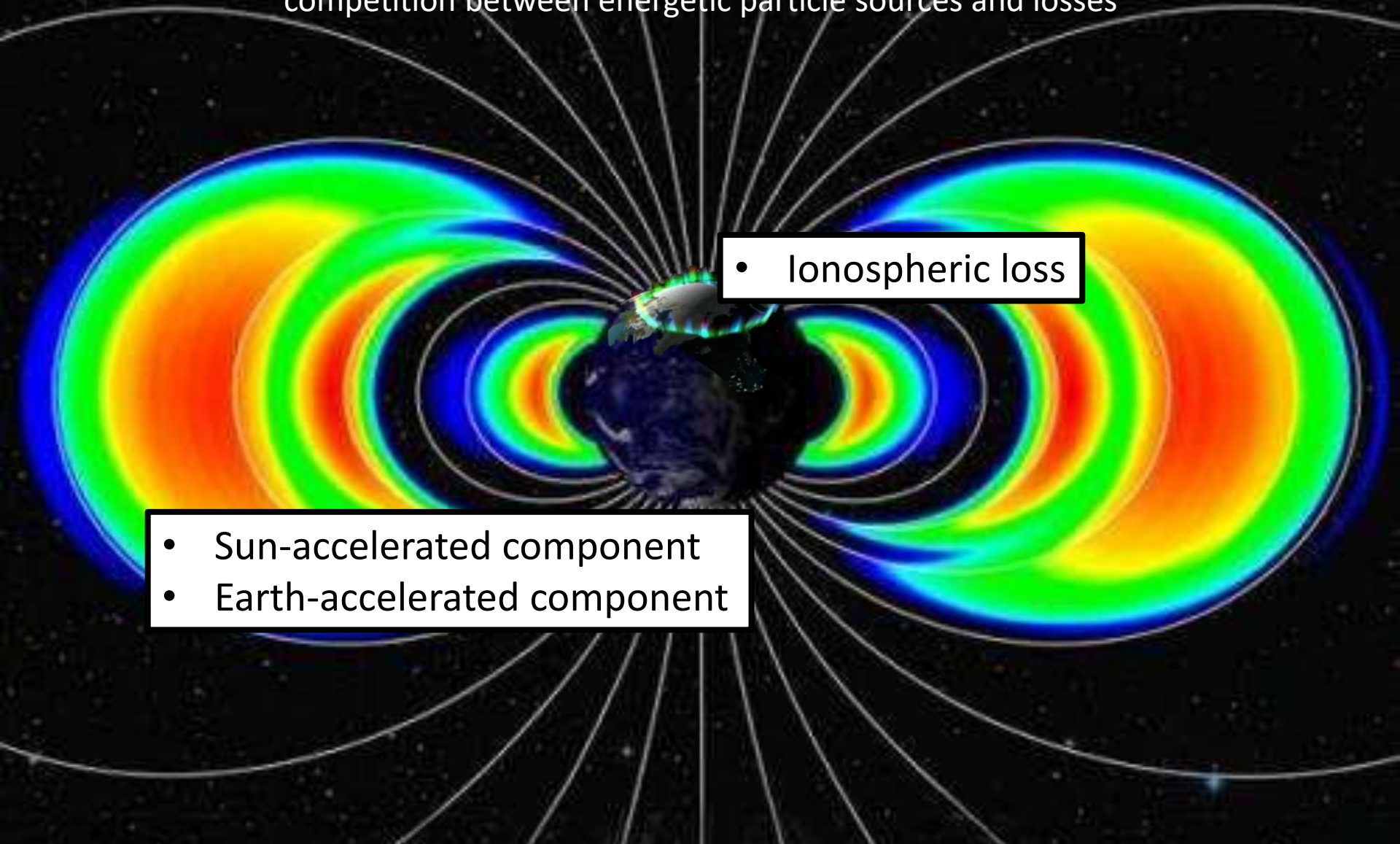
Expensive radiation-  
hard components

- Big spacecraft: Fuel
- Nanosats: Not done



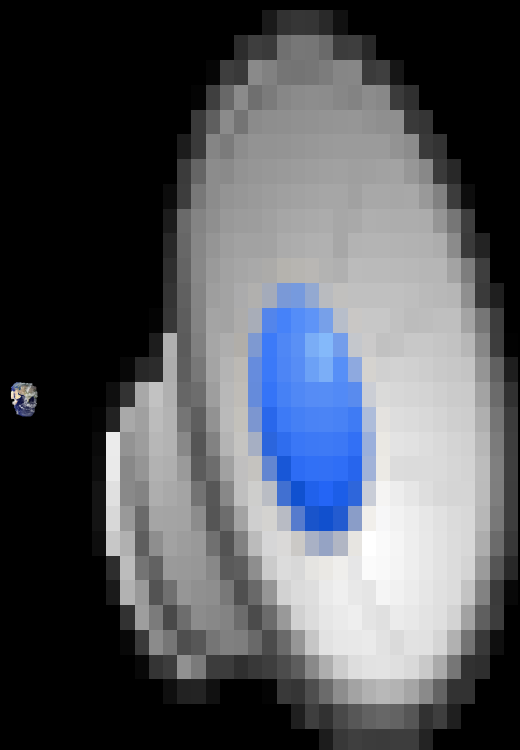
# Earth's radiation environment

Radiation in time and place is determined by competition between energetic particle sources and losses



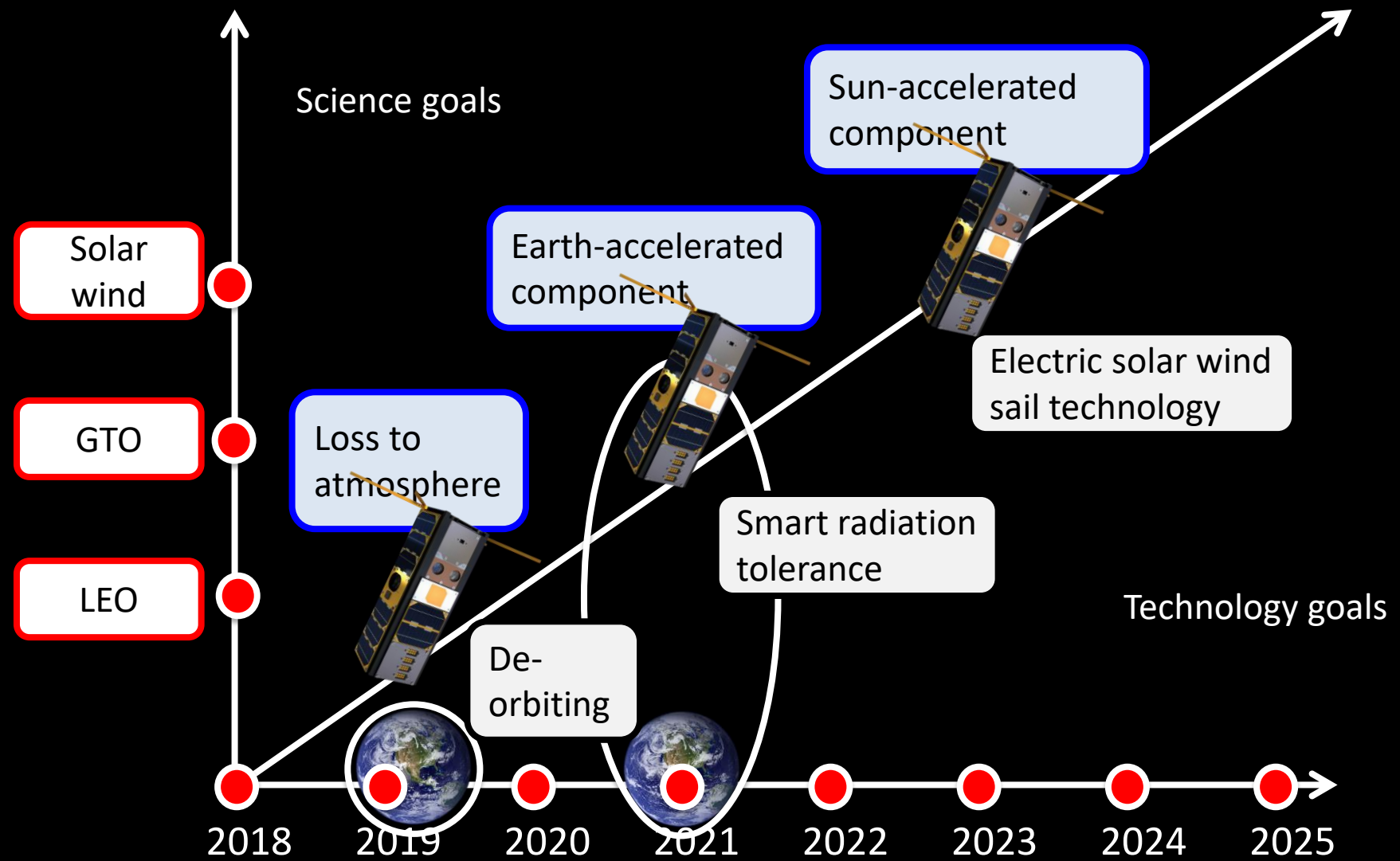
- Ionospheric loss

- Sun-accelerated component
- Earth-accelerated component



\*E.g., Mann [*Nature* 2016]; Breneman [*Nature* 2015]; Su [*Nature* 2015]; Brito [GRL 2012]

# Our Programme

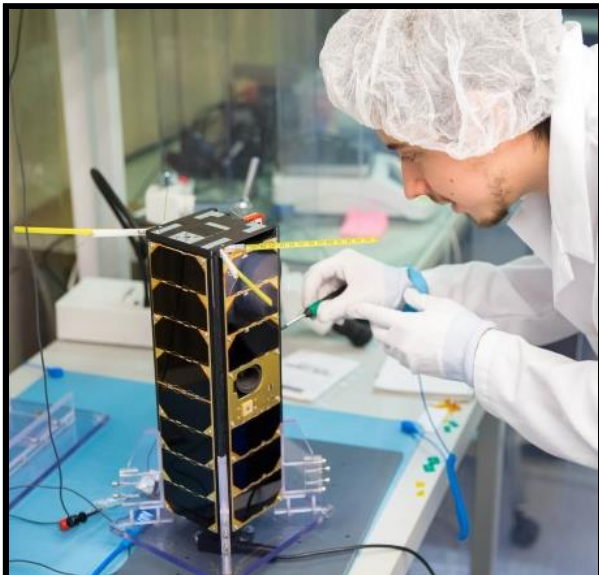




# Technology



# Technology



**Aalto nanosatellite  
laboratory**

**Platforms**



**RADMON instrument  
UT space lab**

**Instruments**



**Tether close-up  
FMI space lab**

**Propulsion**

# Intelligent radiation shielding

We have previously developed expertise in terrestrial IoT and safety applications

→ We will apply to space hardware (spin-in)

Currently widely used “*radiation hard*” hardware requires special engineering and is largely not carried out in Europe

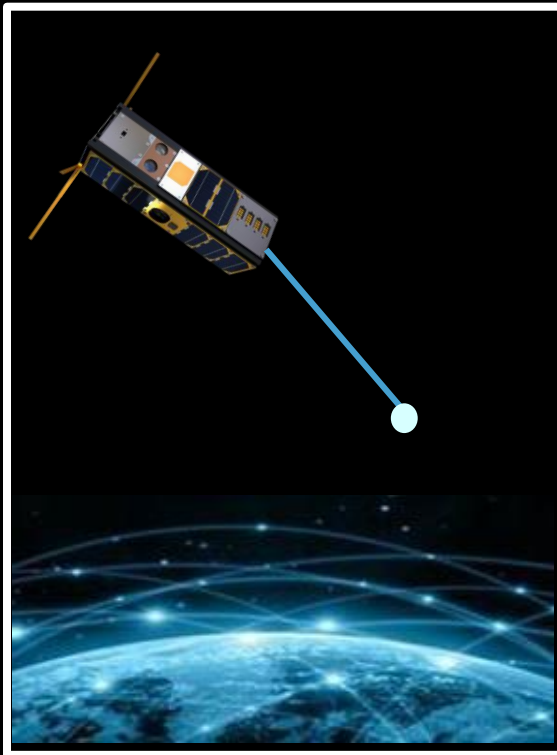
→ We enable European new technology development in cost-efficient software-based resilience



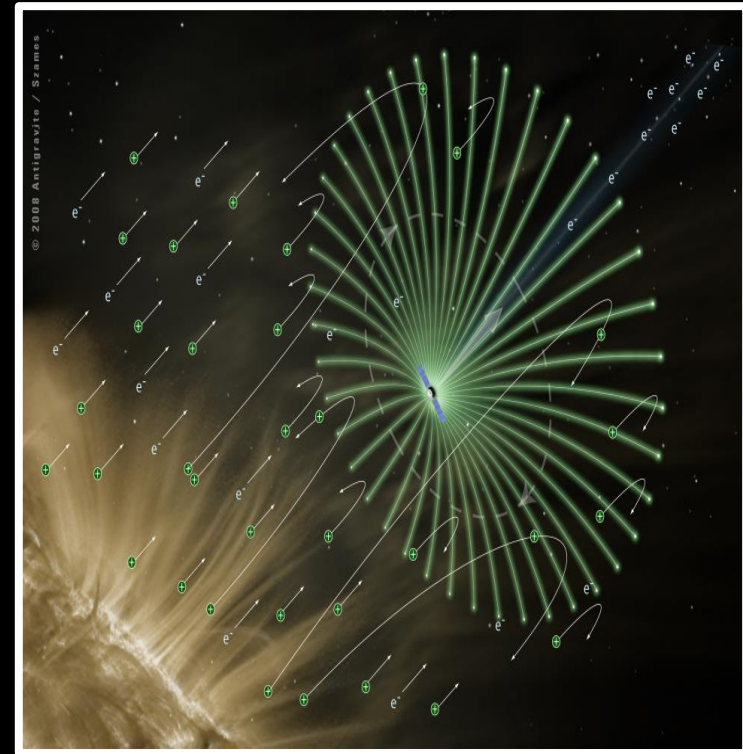


# New debris removal

Coulomb drag devices



**Plasma brake for satellite deorbiting**



**Electric solar wind sail (E-sail):**  
Spacecraft thrust from solar wind momentum

<http://www.electric-sailing.fi>

In practice





# Who we are



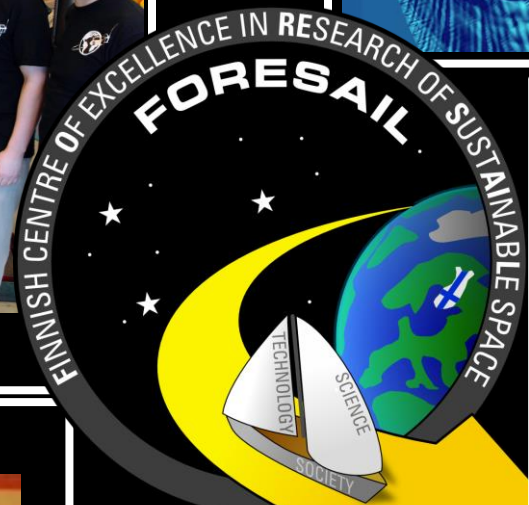
Helsinki, Minna Palmroth:  
Modelling



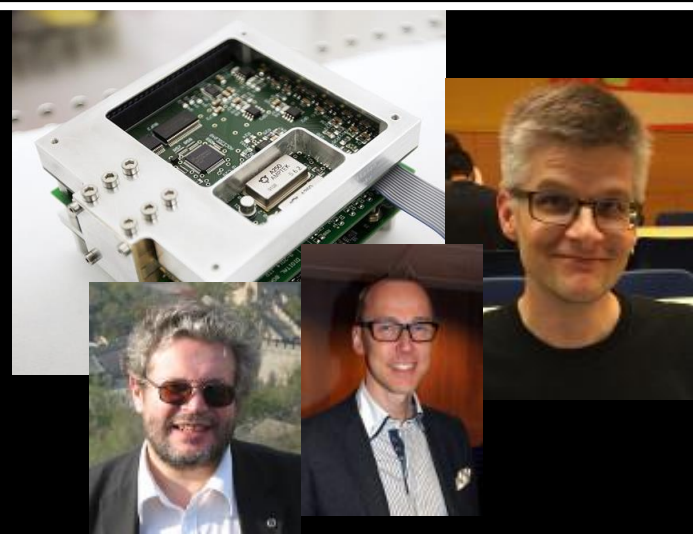
Jaan

Aalto-1

Aalto, Jaan Praks: Platforms



Helsinki, Emilia Kilpua:  
Observations



Turku, Rami Vainio: Instruments



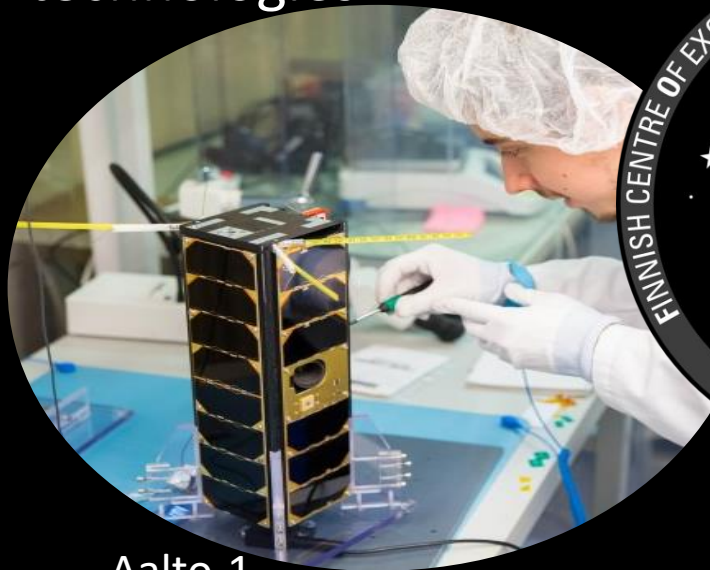
Finnish Met. Inst. Pekka Janhunen: Propulsion

Centre as a whole

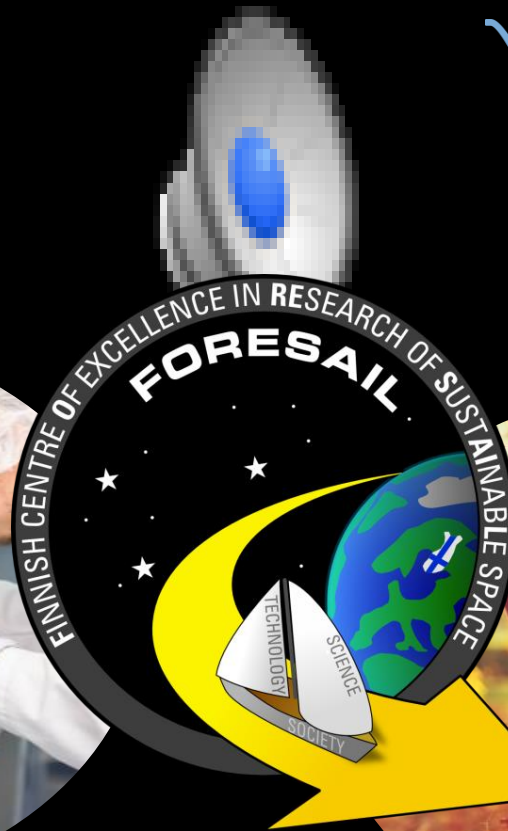
Sustainable science

VLSATOR

Sustainable technologies



Aalto-1



Sustainable applications





A background image showing a dense field of space debris, including small particles and larger fragments, against the bright blue and white horizon of Earth. The debris is scattered across the dark space, with some larger pieces like a yellow cylindrical object and a black rectangular fragment being more prominent.

# Impact

## Science

- Holistic understanding of radiation environment
- Science based on nanosatellites

## Economy

- Competitive advantage
- New industry sector
- New market potential

## Society

- Orbit safety
- Space weather
- Education meeting new market demands