

# Space Sustainability: The Advent of Commercial On-Orbit Servic and Immediate Need for Space Norms

UNOOSA Legal Subcommittee - Technical Presentation

Astroscale Holdings Inc.

April 17, 2024



# Space Environment and On-orbit Servicing (OOS)



Visualization of Space Environment As of 2013 Space debrisOperating

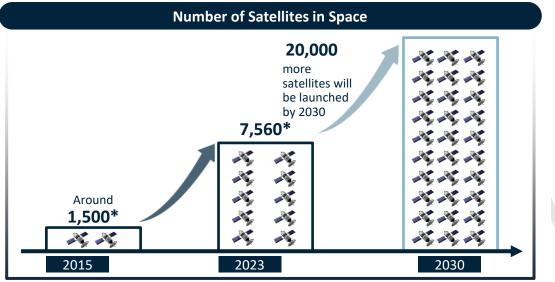
satellites

urce: Professor Toshio Hanada, Kyushu University

u University, Fukuoka 812-8581, Japan <DT> 2015/04/16 08:42:09 UTC <CS> Geocentric ( 3, 16)

## **Unsustainable Orbits are Driving up Risks**

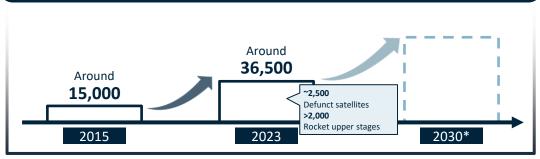




Source: UCS Satellite Database(2023), Space News(2023)"Industry report: Demand for satellites is rising but not skyrocketing", U.S. Government Accountability Office (2022)"Large Constellations of Satellites"

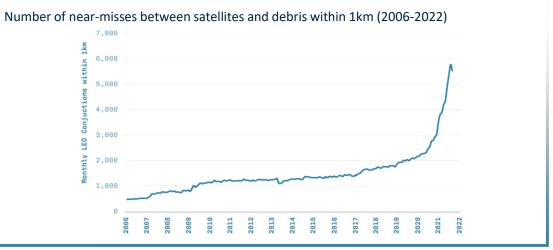
\* Number of satellites at the end of 2015 and in May 2023

#### Amount of Debris in Space (>10cm)



Source: European Space Agency, ESA Space Environment Report. \* Dot box for 2030 is for illustration purposes only.

#### Conjunction Trend for Low Earth Orbit (LEO)



Source: The Center for Space Standards & Innovation at COMSPOC, with the Space Data Association, "Evaluation of LEO Conjunction Rates Using Historical Flight Safety Systems and Analytical Algorithms" (October 2021)

#### Near-misses between two large objects



7<sup>th</sup> time between Jan.2022-Mar.2024 with a miss distance of less than 20m between two intact, non-maneuverable objects (debris)\*1

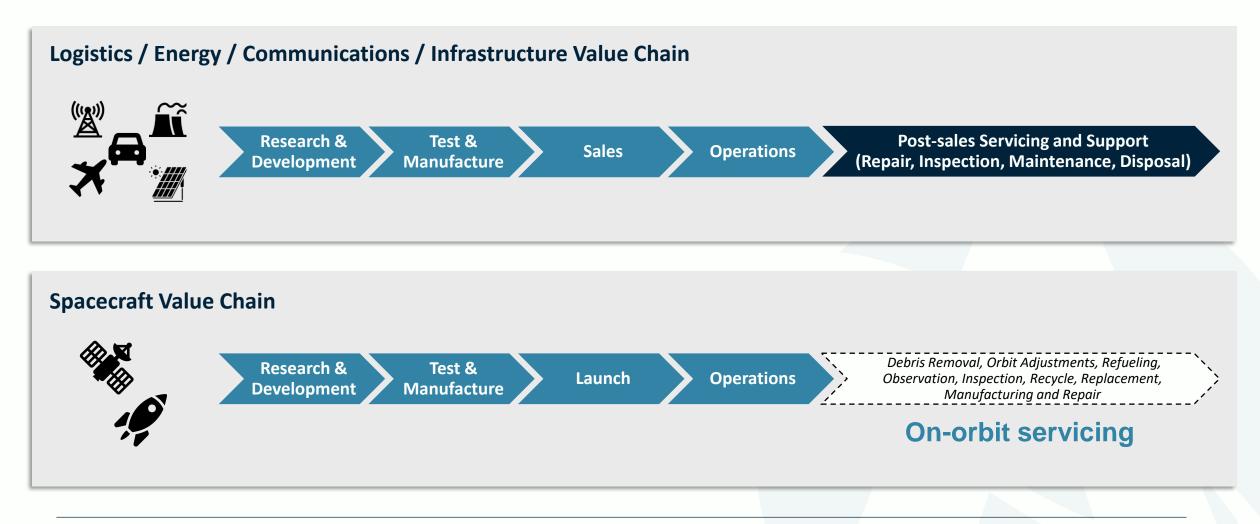
#### Increasing number of collision avoidance maneuvers by Starlink



\*1: Based on information provided by LeoLabs. "A dead Russian spacecraft almost collided with a NASA satellite. The crash could have sent 7,500 bits of debris rocketing around Earth." Business Insider. \*2: "Starlink close encounters decrease despite ever-growing number of satellites." SPACE.com. \*3 Hugh Lewis, a professor of astronautics at the University of Southampton, assuming prior 18 months' growth rate continues

# **OOS is Key to Sustainable Use of Space**

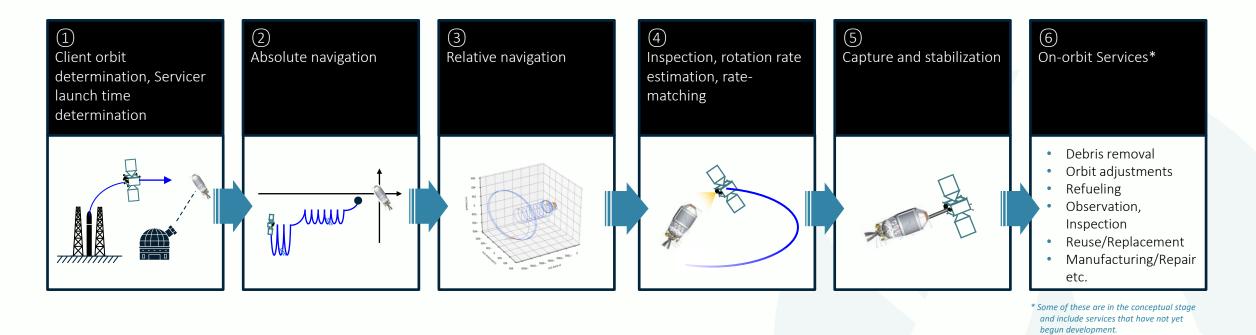




# **RPO Technologies for Unprepared Objects is Key for OOS**



# **R**endezvous and **P**roximity **O**perations Technologies





# Astroscale: Pioneering the Future of Space Sustainability

### VISION

Safe and sustainable development of space for the benefit of future generations.

### MISSION

Develop innovative technologies, advance business cases, and inform international policies that reduce orbital debris and support long-term, sustainable use of space.



### Introduction to Astroscale



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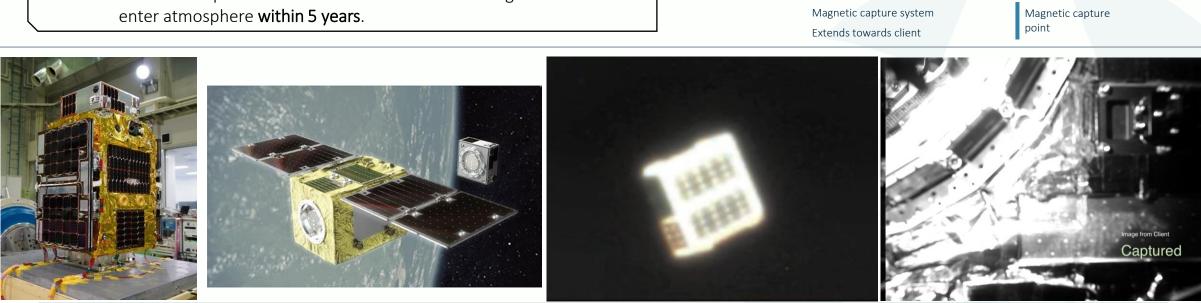
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<sup>1</sup> Represents total amount of equity raised up to Series G, showing the amount as of March 2024.



Servicer (175 kg)

technologies, & a

mechanism

Satellite equipped with a sensor suite, RPO

ferromagnetic capture

Capture System

Mission: Successful demonstration of core RPO technologies in orbit (navigation, sensors, magnetic capture, software) and operations on the ground (fault detection, isolation & recovery, ground segment).

**Status:** Mission complete. Servicer and client are de-orbiting and will reenter atmosphere **within 5 years** 

### ELSA-d

Launch: March 22, 2021

**ELSA-d: Proving Commercial OOS Capabilities** 



Client (17 kg)

pattern

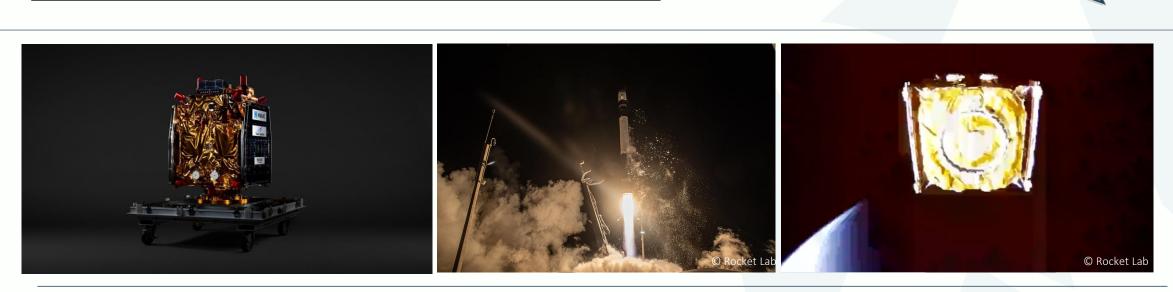
Docking Plate

Replica debris/defunct

satellite equipped with

ferromagnetic docking plate & unique fiducial

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Mission: The first ever mission by a commercial company to rendezvous, approach and characterize an upper stage rocket body in orbit. Groundbreaking demonstration of RPO technologies for a paying customer.

**Status:** Successful launch and satellite check-out. Currently approaching client.



# **ADRAS-J: Proving Commercial OOS Capabilities**



Astroscale Proprietary

**ADRAS-J** 

February 18, 2024

Launch:

## **Best Practices and Standards for OOS**



ADRAS-J followed "Japan's guidelines on a License to Operate a Spacecraft Performing On-Orbit Servicing" that showed best practices and standards for safe and transparent RPO operations.



Guidelines by Cabinet Office, Japan guideline\_oosgl.pdf (cao.go.jp)

(Tentative translation/For reference purpose only)	
Most notes in this document are prepared exclusively for the translated versi	on; they
do not appear in the original Japanese text.	
Guidelines on a License to Operate a Spacecraft	
Performing On-Orbit Servicing	
National Space Policy Secretariat	
Cabinet Office, Japan	
10 November 2021	

#### **Major Requirements**

- Justifiability of purposes as a lawful business conduct
- Subsystems necessary for the safety
- Operations and maneuvers plan necessary for the safety
- Transparency of the safety and justifiability

 PMissionJapan Vienna ♀ @JapanMissionVie · 2月13日
On 6 February, at the LTS workshop during #STSC, Ms Iwamoto of #Astroscale\_JP presented Astroscale's efforts for on-orbit servicing, including the Active Debris Removal project, and touched on Japan's guidelines for ensuring the safe and transparent operation of such services.

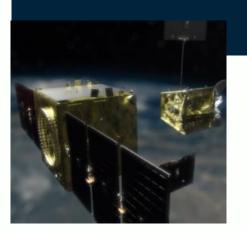


A representative from Astroscale Japan presented CRD2 program and OOS guidelines at the UNCOPUOS LTS workshops in February 2024



# **Our Missions Cover Multiple Orbits and Serve Numerous Types of Customers**





#### EOL

#### End-of-Life Services

Mission:	Prevent Future Debris
Objects:	Satellite Constellations
Client:	Commercial and Government



### ADR

#### Active Debris Removal

Mission:	Remove Current Debris
Objects:	Defunct Satellites and Rockets
Client:	Government



#### LEX

#### Life Extension Services

Mission:	Orbit adjustment, refueling
Objects:	GEO Satellites
Client:	Commercial and Government



### ISSA

#### In-Situ Space Situational Awareness

Mission:	Observe Orbital Environment
Objects:	Space Environment and Potential Risks
Client:	Government

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# **Our Expectation for Global Actions for Space Sustainability**



#### **Environmental Changes**

- Deteriorating space environment
- Advancing commercial OOS capabilities
- Emerging rules to regulate satellite operators and policies to promote OOS

### Immediate and Further Actions

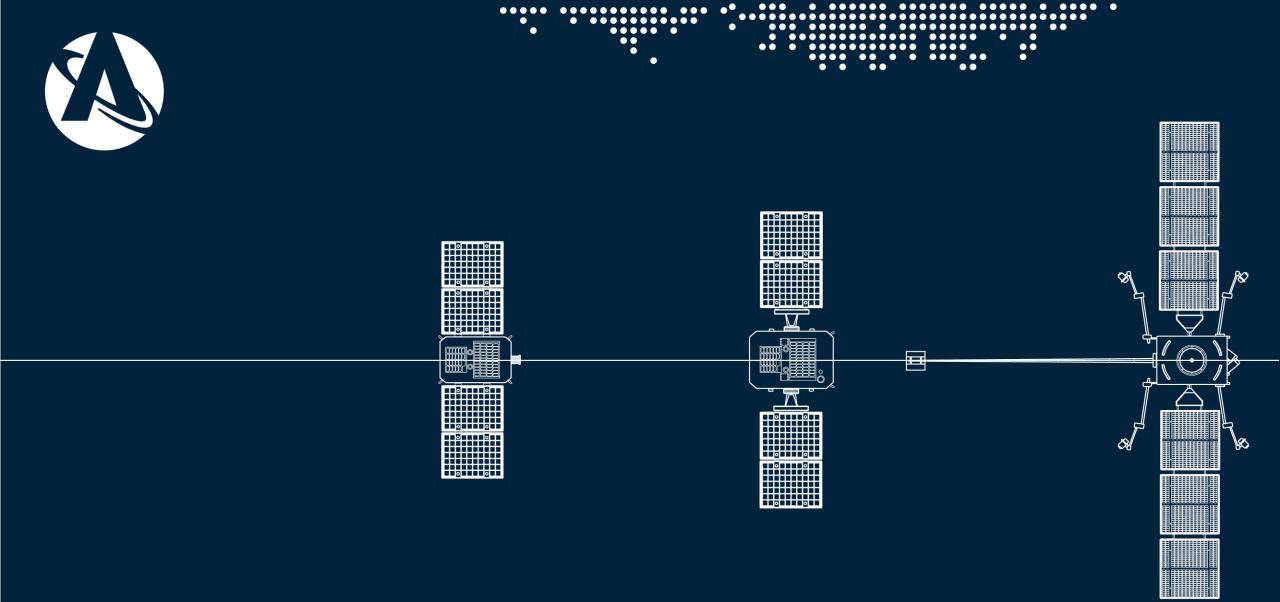
- 1. Industry, states, and global organizations must take action:
  - A) Industry:
    - Develop, demonstrate, and mature innovative OOS technologies.
    - Validate value propositions and drive discussions on best practices and standards.

#### **B)** States:

- Allocate budgets to support advanced R&D.
- Implement regulations and establish space policies and architectures leveraging OOS for a circular economy in space.

#### C) NGO/IGO:

- Generate consensus-based, non-binding rules on space sustainability and debris mitigation and remediation.
- 2. Regulatory and legislative action items should encompass the following:
  - Facilitating the sharing SSA (Space Situational Awareness) data to enhance SSA capabilities
  - Requiring satellite operators to deorbit all satellites at the end of their life
  - Requiring states to remove existing debris critical to space environment



visit us at www.astroscale.com

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