About STM

In light of an increasingly congested space, maintaining space as a resource for future generations becomes increasingly essential. The EU approach on Space Traffic Management (STM) proposed by the Commission and the High Representative therefore aims at keeping space operations safe, space orbits usable, and space accessible for decades to come while ensuring and further fostering the competitiveness of the EU industry.

Fostering innovation and enhancing competitiveness of the EU’s SST commercial sector are key to achieving a higher level of EU strategic self-reliance and to supporting the rapid growth of new SST services. EU SST therefore supports the development of European industrial capabilities with the aim of enhancing and consolidating EU SST autonomy in all orbital zones beyond the existing network of national assets.

To this end, the Commission launched together with the EU SST Partnership the EU Industry and Start-ups Forum on STM (EISF).

STM link to EU SST and EU industry

Monitoring space traffic continuously is essential to carrying out STM tasks effectively. EU Space Surveillance and Tracking (EU SST) with its network of sensors and capabilities is therefore the operational cornerstone of the EU STM strategy.

Fostering innovation and enhancing competitiveness of the EU’s SST commercial sector are key to achieving a higher level of EU strategic self-reliance and to supporting the rapid growth of new SST services. EU SST therefore supports the development of European industrial capabilities with the aim of enhancing and consolidating EU SST autonomy in all orbital zones beyond the existing network of national assets.

To this end, the Commission launched together with the EU SST Partnership the EU Industry and Start-ups Forum on STM (EISF).

Facts and figures

more than 50 000 additional satellites expected to be launched in the next ten years

1 million pieces of debris larger than 1 cm estimated to be orbiting the Earth

Joint STM Communication (JOIN(2022)4):
“STM encompasses the means and the rules to access, conduct activities in, and return from outer space safely, sustainably and securely”

1 million pieces of debris larger than 1 cm estimated to be orbiting the Earth

Find out more on https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-space-policy/eu-space-programme/space-traffic-management_en @defis_eu EU Space © European Union 2023
Developing a comprehensive EU STM approach is key to safeguard the interests of the EU and its Member States while fully respecting the competences of the EU and its Member States.

The EU approach to Space Traffic Management proposed by the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR/VP) aims at enhancing capabilities, norms and engagement while preserving EU interests in line with the respective competencies of the Union and its Member States. It calls for an EU contribution to this global challenge along four key lines of action:

- **assess STM requirements and impacts**
  - gather civilian and military STM requirements of space operators

- **foster STM regulatory aspects**
  - develop and promote
    - non-binding measures incl. incentives
    - binding obligations to increase the use of guidelines and standards by EU operators

- **enhance operational EU SST capabilities**
  - improve existing EU SST services
  - develop additional SST services
  - explore and use new technologies
  - engage with the EU industrial ecosystem

- **promote EU STM approach at international level**
  - promote a multilateral STM
  - foster regional STM contributions to a global effort
  - engage in dialogues with strategic partners

The EU approach on STM is implemented through the **STM stakeholder mechanism** co-chaired by the Commission and the High Representative. Mirroring the four proposed STM avenues, it gathers relevant experts from the private sector, Member States, the EU and other relevant actors. In this way, this discussion forum contributes valuable impetus towards the implementation of the EU STM approach.

**STM main group**

- **Subgroup 1**: STM requirements for space operators
  - establish STM requirements for civil and military stakeholders

- **Subgroup 2**: Operational capabilities (EISF)
  - reinforce link between EU SST Partnership and EU industry

- **Subgroup 3**: Regulatory STM aspects
  - support development of standards and guidelines

- **Subgroup 4**: International STM dimension
  - inform engagement on international dialogue

These efforts will:
- **increase the resilience** of EU and Member States’ space infrastructure
- **provide greater security** for operators
- **support the competitiveness** of the European industry
- **make a concrete contribution** to the global effort to sustain space services and applications

Developing a comprehensive EU STM approach is key to safeguard the interests of the EU and its Member States while fully respecting the competences of the EU and its Member States.