



Facts and figures

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**.

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”



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

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)**.



more than
40
sensors
contributing
to EU SST network



more than
400
spacecraft
protected thanks
to EU SST



more than
190
organisations
registered for
EU SST services



more than
80%
of available EU SST
budget allocated to
EU industry



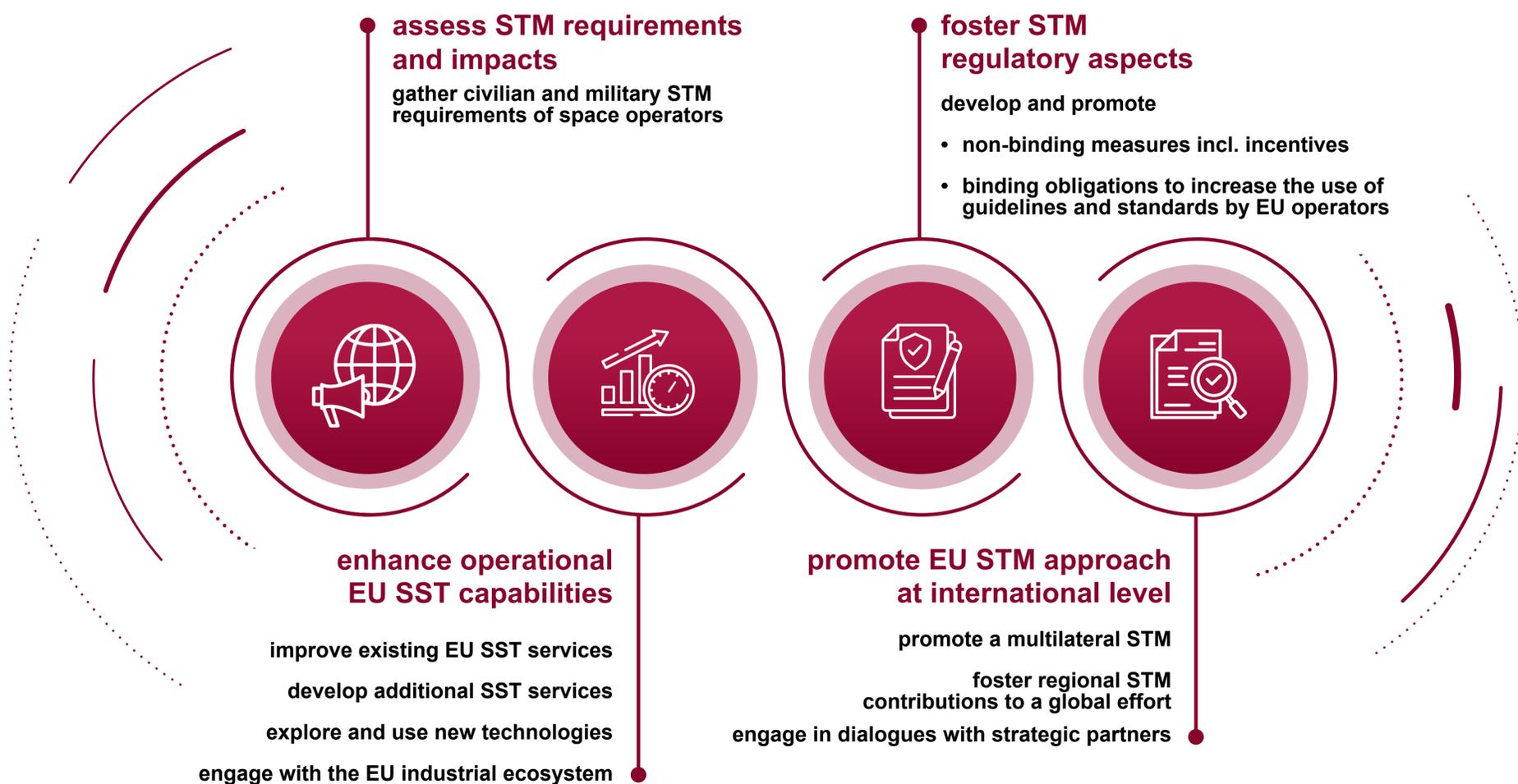
more than
60
EU organisations
participating
in the EISF

EU approach to Space Traffic Management

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:



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.



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.

