
ESA-SSA & risk assessment

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Résumé

At the 2008 European Space Agency's Ministerial Council Meeting, a new optional programme was started, called 'Space Situational Awareness' (SSA). The aim of the SSA programme is to support the European independent utilisation of and access to space for research or services, through providing timely and quality data, information, services and knowledge regarding the environment, the threats and the sustainable exploitation of the outer space surrounding our planet. As such it foreseen three major elements: SST - Space Surveillance (monitoring space-debris and satellites); SWE – Space Weather (knowing the radiation and plasma environment); NEO – Near Earth Objects (addressing the asteroid hazard). The current status of the SSA Programme, just entered in the realization Phase 3, is presented, with special focus on the SSA-NEO Coordination Centre operations.

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