



Promoting Cooperative Solutions for Space Sustainability






U.S. National Policy and Space Debris

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Space debris in US National Space Policy

Year	President	Policy Directive	Implementation
1988	Ronald Reagan	Minimize creation of space debris in tests, experiments, and systems	
1989	George HW Bush	+ Encourage other countries to adopt space debris minimization policies	
1996	Bill Clinton	++ Develop design guidelines for space debris minimization, and take a leadership role in promoting international adoption	
2006	George W Bush	+++ Follow national orbital debris mitigation standards, and incorporate into licensing of commercial satellites	
2010	Barack Obama	++++ Preserve the space environment, foster development of space collision warning measures, and research debris removal technology	

- Major impediment to making further progress is the *lack of a bureaucratic champion* for space sustainability
 - If it's everyone's job, then it's no one's job
- Current policy discussions on “space traffic management” offer a chance to fix the situation
 - Assign responsibility for the space environment to an existing civil agency (NASA, FCC, NOAA, DOT/FAA?)
 - Merge existing authorities into a new agency (Coast Guard for Space?)
- Champion needs to focus on incentivizing commercial capabilities
 - X Prize competition for ADR?
 - “Commercial Cargo & Crew” program for ADR?