



UK Position on Space Debris Remediation; and Proposal for an Approach

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UK Stance and Current Risk

- The UK position is embryonic.
- UK satellites in LEO
- Position as member of ESA
- Immediate issue - Envisat
- UK liability for the risks of remediation



UK Legal Position on Remediation

- The Outer Space Act 1986, Section 5(2), provides the basis for remediation measures
- Licensee must conduct operations so as to:
 - Prevent contamination of space
 - Avoid interference with activities of others
 - Avoid breach of UK's international obligations
- If there is a breach of Conditions, Secretary of State can order “*disposal of any space object.*” (OSA 1986, Section 8(2))



UK Licence Terms

- Licensed Activities must:
 - be conducted in a *proper manner*
 - accord with best *industry practice*
 - comply with the obligations of the United Kingdom under *international law*
 - not give rise to *liability* under international law
- (OSA 1986, Licence, Condition 4)



Additional Conditions

- Additional conditions that will strengthen UK's position for remediation include:
 - Compliance with the terms of ISO 24113
 - Prevent contamination of outer space
 - Avoid interference (physical and frequency) in the space activities of others



Intellectual Property

- Jurisdictional nature
- Extension of IP laws
- What constitutes export
- Return to Earth



Potential Way Forward

- International sharing of cost and risks is an ideal solution, but hard to achieve
- Some States have greater interest
- National and economic security
- Multi-lateral arrangement like ISO
- Cost sharing by suitable formula
- Use by non-members for a fee



Legal Issues

- Affect on liability and establishing *fault*
- Duty owed
- Relevance of sovereignty
- Consultation under OST Art IX
- Meaning of *planned activity*
- Space Situational Awareness



Thank You

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