

SPACE SUSTAINABILITY : A DIALOGUE BETWEEN RESEARCH, INDUSTRY AND POLICY MAKERS.

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Following the launch of the Swisscube in 2009, eSpace (EPFL Space Center) has been working to make space a safer place which led to the creation of the spin-off start-up ClearSpace in 2018. Shortly after, ClearSpace was awarded a contract to remove a VESPA upper stage by 2025. eSpace is an interdisciplinary center, working with students, academic institutions, international space agencies and industry partners, with an overall mission to promote space related research and education at EPFL.

In 2019, the research initiative on Sustainable Space Logistics (RISSL) was launched at the EPFL Space Center (eSpace), that led to the development of many activities in particular in robotics and AI for visualisation of debris to be capture.

In 2021, eSpace has been selected by the WEF to be the host of the Space Sustainability Rating, which mission is to promote sustainable behaviour of space Actors by issuing a recognized rating. "The Space Sustainability Rating (SSR) provides a rating system informed by transparent, data-based assessments of the level of sustainability of space missions. The SSR also offers practical guidance to space operators on how to improve their sustainability performance, with the goal of helping to address the challenges raised by the proliferation of space debris.

This talk will address the issue of space sustainability in the view of stakeholder engagement, how to include the voice of all parties and how to have an impact using the research initiative on sustainable space logistics and the space sustainability rating as an example.