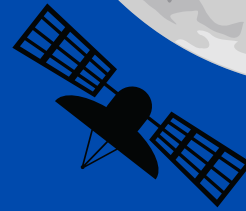




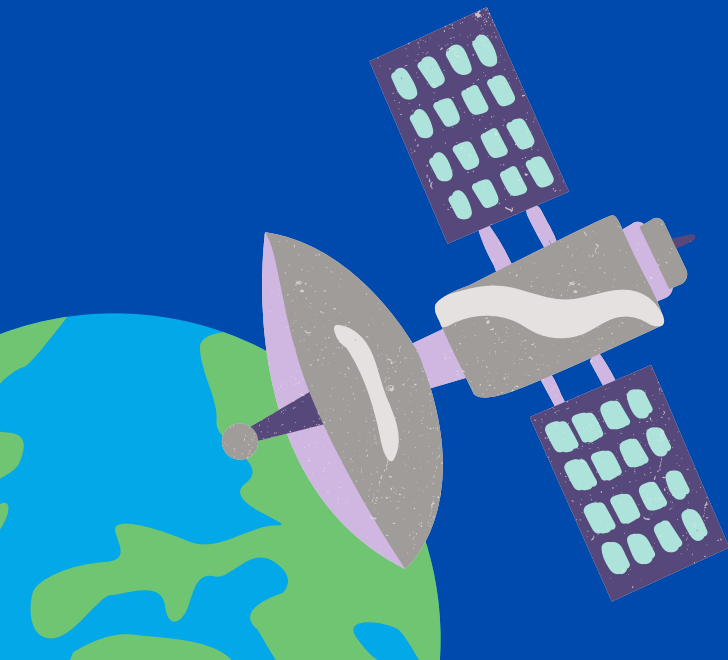
What is On-Orbit Servicing?



Technology

On-orbit servicing refers to the refueling or repairing of space satellites while in orbit.

An OTV is short for Orbit Transfer Vehicle, which is a type of spacecraft that is used to service other satellites. OTVs can dock with other satellites so that they can be moved into another orbit, refueled if they run out of a propulsion source, or serviced if a key component malfunctions.



Policy

The Federal Communications Commission - The FCC regulates commercial satellites, such as Starlink, in a similar manner. The FCC requires a post-mission disposal plan with its application. A post-mission disposal plan is a plan for what happens to the satellite after it finishes its mission to make sure that the satellites are safe and don't create debris in space

NASA - NASA regulates our nation's space program, with missions such as the Hubble Space Telescope, and has released the Orbital Debris Mitigation Standard Practices, which sets many rules for satellites in order to prevent the creation of space debris.

Congress - Congress also regulates space sustainability with acts such as the Situational Awareness Transition Act of 2022 and the National Defense Authorization Act, which supported the creation of more space policy and gave more funding to companies developing technologies and tools that could help with space sustainability.