



PRESS RELEASE

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The Orbital Debris Environment In The Light Of Planned Mega-Constellation Deployments at IAC 2016

A special plenary dedicated to the Projection and Stability of the Orbital Debris Environment in the Light of Planned Mega-Constellation Deployments will take place on **Thursday 29 September 2016** from **13:30 – 14:30** at the IAC 2016.

In early 2015, media reported plans by two companies, OneWeb Ltd. (UK) and SpaceX (USA), for the deployment of large low-Earth orbit (LEO) satellite constellations. The OneWeb constellation is planned to consist of 720 Satellites, to be operating at 1,200 km altitude in 18 different orbit planes, to provide global high-speed communication. The SpaceX constellation is planned to consist of 4,000 satellites, to be operating at 1,100 km altitude, to provide global, high-speed internet communication. Both constellations will be deployed in high-inclination orbits.

This Plenary Event will present a panel of experts that will highlight possible effects of large constellation deployments on the current and future orbital debris environment, on possible risks imposed on other space missions during the operation and disposal of such constellations, and on legal aspects of large constellation deployments in the light of existing space debris mitigation guidelines and applicable legal frameworks.

The plenary will be moderated by **Professor Heiner Klinkrad**, former Head of ESA Space Debris Office and currently an Honorary Professor at the Institute of Space Systems of the Technical University of Braunschweig. The panelists will include **Dr. J.-C. Liou**, NASA Chief Scientist for Orbital Debris; **Dr. Holger Krag**, Head of ESA Space Debris Office; **Mr. Michael Lindsay**, OneWeb Mission System Engineering and Analysis Lead; and **Professor Stephan Hobe**, Head of Institute of Air- and Space-Law at the University of Cologne.

Members of the press are invited to save the date, and register to ensure that they receive accreditation. Please send confirmation of your registration to abed.aldaas@iafastro.org so that we can ensure that you are properly accredited.

