

DARPA Perspective on Space

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Diminishing returns for monolithic systems



Rethink complex military systems

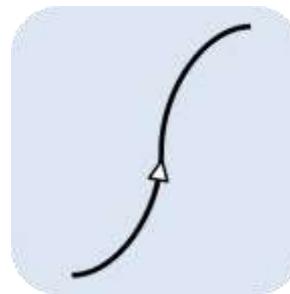


Electromagnetic spectrum dominance
Position, navigation, & timing beyond GPS
Air superiority in contested environments
Maritime system of systems
Robust space
Overmatch on the ground
Defense against mass terrorism

Information is exploding



Harness information

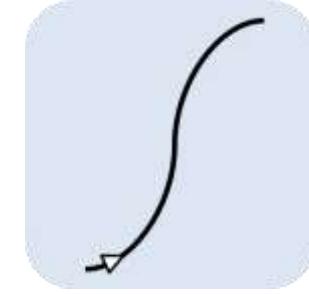


Scalable cyber capabilities
Electronics with built-in trust
Big data tools
Next-generation artificial intelligence

First-mover advantage



Create technological surprise



Outpacing infectious disease
Neurotechnologies
Synthetic biology
Chemistry, physics, math, materials
Understanding complexity
Human-machine symbiosis

TTO Space Focus

Space R&D is fundamentally different; demonstrations occur in the operational domain, resulting in more oversight and policy complexity



History

DARPA History

SATURN F1
Rocket Engine
1960



Speech Recognition
1971



Stealth Fighter
1983



Microelectromechanical Systems
(MEMS)
1991



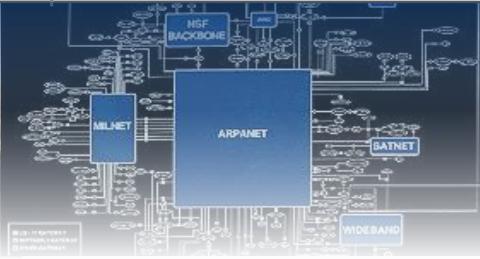
1960

1970

1980

1990

2000



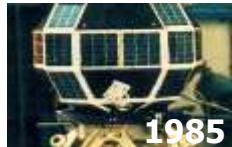
ARPA Established
1958

M16 Assault Rifle
1965

ARPANET
1969

Global Hawk
1998

TTO Space Systems



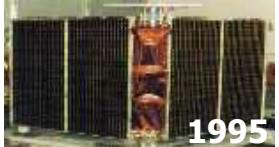
1985

Global Low Orbiting
Message Relay
(GLOMR)



1990

Pegasus



1995

DARPASAT



1997

Taurus



2003

Falcon Small
Launch Vehicle



2006

MiTEX



2007

Orbital Express (OE)

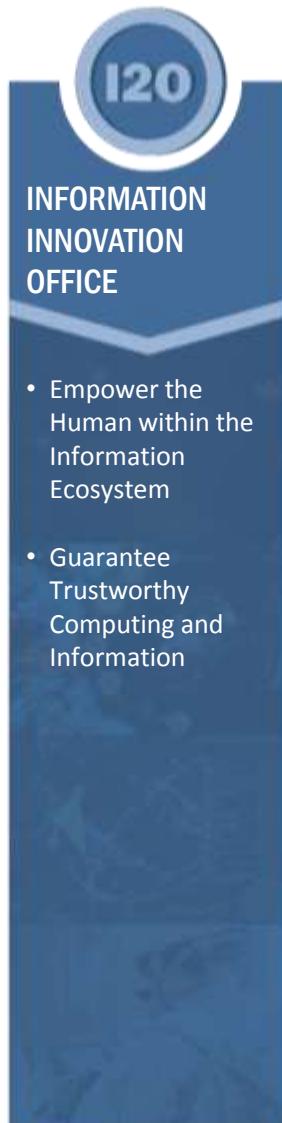
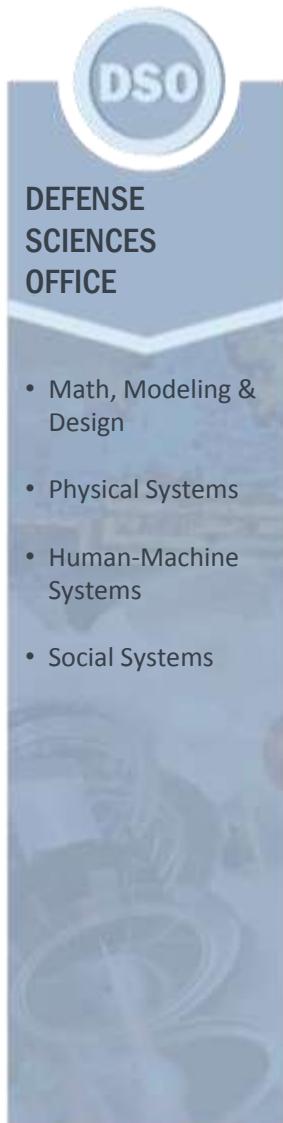


2015

Space Surveillance
Telescope (SST)



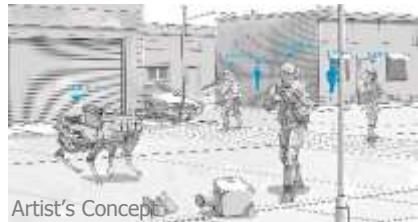
DARPA Technical Offices



Platform and System Focus Areas

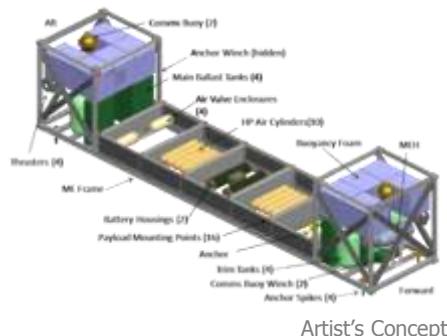
Ground Systems

Deployable, mobile capable forces



Maritime Systems

Control the sea, influence events on land



Air Systems

Extend range and minimize time



Space Systems

Resilient and flexible



Cross-Cutting Themes

Agile development approach, cooperative autonomy, unmanned systems, power and propulsion

Launch Flexibility

- Current launch has no surge capability and long call-up times
 - 2+ years to get “into the queue”
 - Custom-built production line of a few (Maserati model) vs. assembly line of thousands (Ford model)
- Fixed launch sites are vulnerable

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Architectures

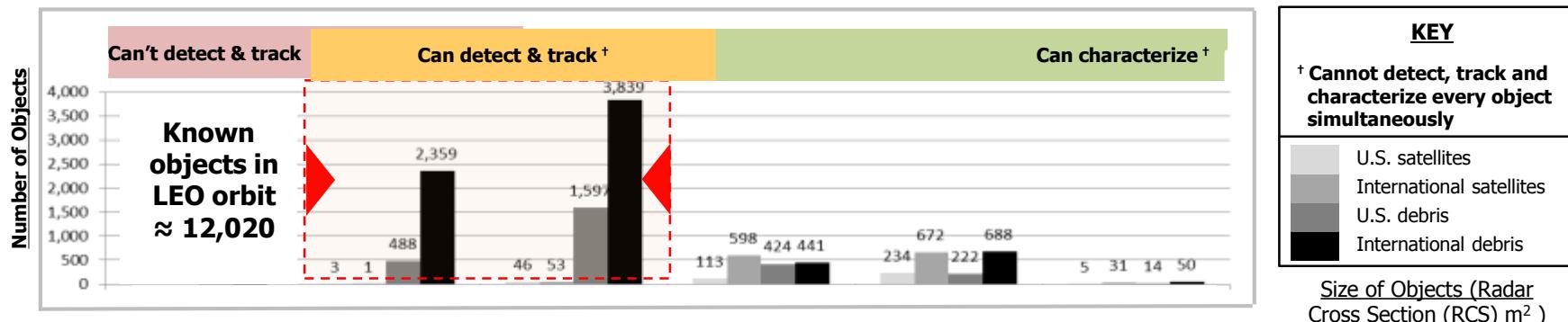
- DoD payloads launched on Evolved ELV at >\$3B/year & growing
- Small payloads launched at \$50M+ on few remaining Minotaurs
- Today's high value spacecraft are fragile: uninspected, unprepared, and rapidly become obsolete



Space Domain Awareness

- There are approximately 16,000+ objects in 10^{14} km³ (240,000 oceans)
 - Approximately 12,020 in low Earth orbit (LEO), 1,890 in medium Earth orbit (MEO), and 1,890 in geosynchronous Earth orbit (GEO)

LEO





- Commercial
 - Easier access to space
 - Growing, lucrative satellite communications (SATCOM)
 - Expanding micro/smallsat capabilities
- Wealthy visionaries
 - Space tourism
 - Space transportation
- Emerging technology
 - Satellite servicing
 - Additive manufacturing
 - Position, navigation, and timing (PNT) options
- NASA investments (orbital and suborbital)
 - New entrants



©SpaceX



DARPA Vision for Robust Space

- Flexible, affordable capabilities
 - Resilience for a congested, contested environment
 - Affordable, routine, and reliable access to space
 - Aircraft-like space access reduces “time to space”
 - Rapid small satellite constellation insertion/restoration
 - Space robotics
 - Repair vital space assets
 - Assemble unlaunchable, very large satellites
- Real-time space domain awareness
 - Real-time detection, tracking, and attribution
 - Currently catalog maintenance and days to weeks of forensics
 - Real-time indication and warning, command and control
 - With displays and decision tools



Experimental Space Plane

Goals:

- Fly 10X in 10 days, no upper stage/payload
- Design the objective system for >3,000-lb payload at <\$5M/flight
- Fly demo system one time with orbital payload >900 lbs



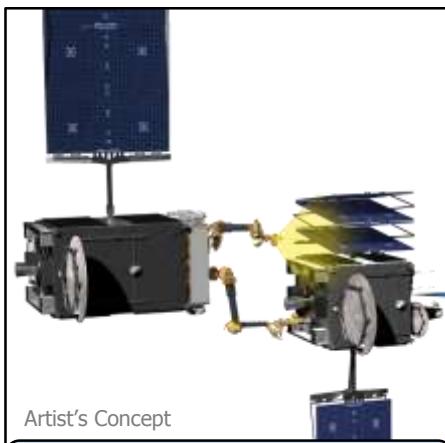
Demo aircraft-like space access, reduced time to space & lower launch cost



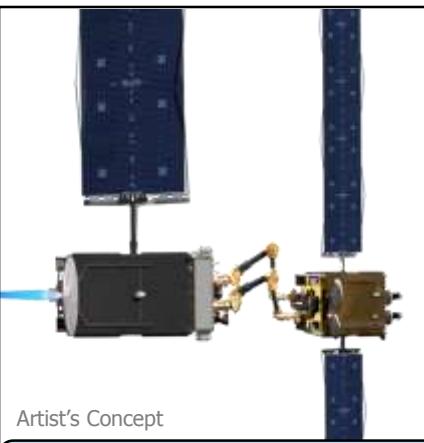
Goal:

To create a dexterous robotic capability in GEO, that provides increased resilience for the U.S. space infrastructure, and the first step toward a transformed space architecture with revolutionary capabilities

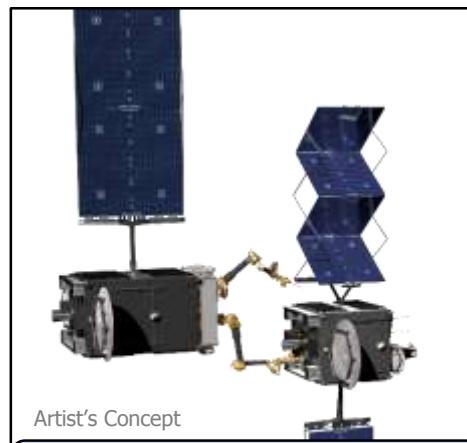
Envisioned Mission Ensemble



Cooperatively **inspect** spacecraft experiencing anomalies



Cooperatively **assist** with orbit adjustments

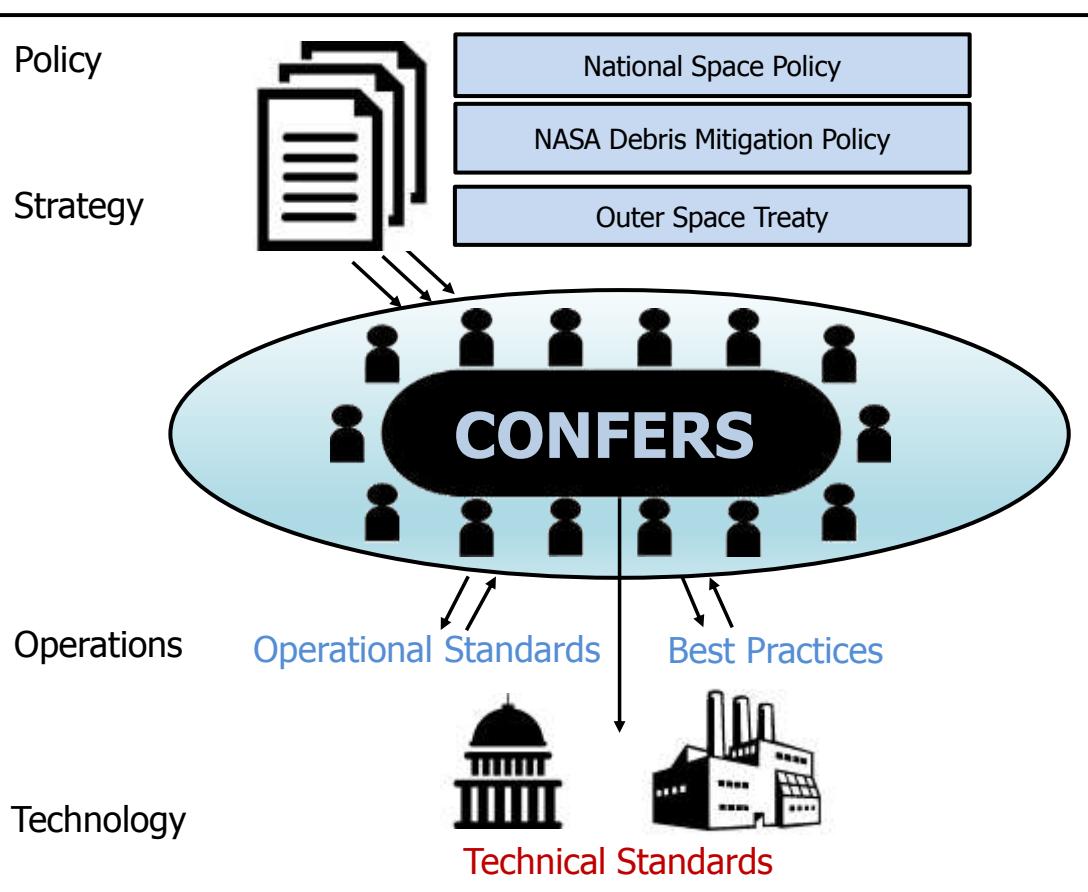


Cooperatively **correct** mechanical problems



Cooperatively **install** self contained payloads on-orbit

Create an industry/government consortium to develop technical standards for safe on-orbit rendezvous and servicing operations



CONFERS Enables:

- Enhanced on-orbit safety through establishment of “rules of the road”
- Increased commerce resulting from clear definitions for safe commercial operations
- Creation of behavioral norms that allow for transparent international engagement
- Streamlining of future USG mission authorization with a technical foundation

Goals:

- Create a flexible testbed
 - Integrate and test software tools
 - Enhanced decision-making using cognitive science advances
- Perform real-time information fusion
 - Multiple sources
 - Integrated data
 - Share common operating picture
- Develop new tools
 - Flexible course of action generation and evaluation
 - Incorporate modeling and simulation
- Technology spin-off to joint space operations centers



Artist's Concept

Hallmark will provide architecture and tools to enhance current and future space enterprise command and control decision making



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Mission

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) was established in 1958 to **prevent strategic surprise** from negatively affecting U.S. national security and **create strategic surprise** for U.S. adversaries by maintaining the technological superiority of the U.S. military.

To fulfill its mission, the Agency relies on **diverse performers** to apply multi-disciplinary approaches to both advance knowledge through basic research and **create innovative technologies** that address current practical problems through applied research.

As the DoD's **primary innovation engine**, DARPA undertakes projects that are finite in duration but that create **lasting revolutionary change**.