



Recent Space Policy Statements Regarding Our Dark and Quiet Skies

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AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

About the AAS Committee for the Protection of Astronomy and the Space Environment (COMPASSE)

COMPASSE represents the interests of AAS relating to the protection of dark and radio-quiet skies, the safe and sustainable use of outer space, and related issues, and empowers AAS members to be effective advocates for the protection of U.S. astronomy. compasse.aas.org

Light Pollution

Electromagnetic Interference

Space Debris

Satellite Constellations

Community Engagement

Public Policy



Background

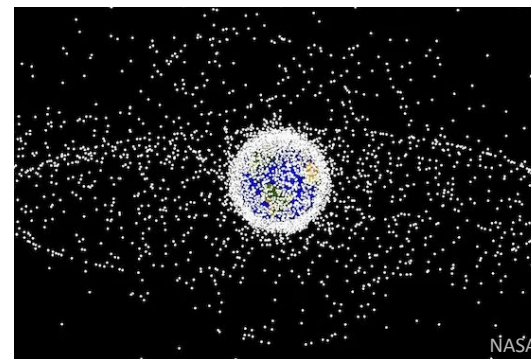
Dark and radio-quiet skies are under threat around the world.



Skyglow



Radio interference



Orbital crowding and space debris

Background

Increasingly the source of these threats comes from novel activities in space.



Satellite constellations



Solar power from space



Commercial advertising

AAS Statement on Transparency in Cislunar and Interplanetary Spaceflight Activities



Spaceflight activities in cislunar and interplanetary space should be conducted in an open and transparent way.

- U.S.-licensed launching entities should publicly report trajectories using an open standard.
- Trajectory information for deep space (beyond 100,000 km) objects should be placed in a public repository.
- Restricting publication of observations of artificial objects in deep space on the basis of national security concerns should be reviewed.



AAS Statement on the Atmospheric Impacts of Spacecraft Reentries and Launches

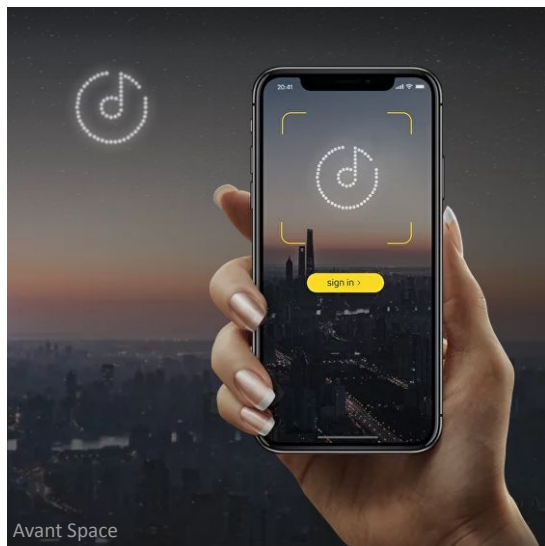


Regulators and policymakers should seriously and substantively consider the issue of atmospheric pollution from satellite launches and reentries.

- Congress should provide funding to conduct urgent scientific research in order to provide stakeholders with a timely assessment of all spaceflight emissions and their effects.
- Implementing agencies should be directed to incorporate the results of this research into their licensing of space activities.



AAS Statement on Obtrusive Space Advertising



The kind of activity represented by obtrusive space advertising constitutes “potentially harmful interference” with ground-based astronomy.

- Obtrusive space advertising should be prohibited by appropriate international convention, treaty, or law, following the example set by the United States in 51 U.S.C. §50911.
- AAS urges the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN-COPUOS) to support such a global prohibition.



Other recent COMPASSE-originated actions

COMPASSE continues to engage on relevant policy issues in a number of areas.



[Endorsement of the Dark & Quiet Skies Act of 2024 \(S.4952, 118th Congress\)](#)

The bill would establish a Center of Excellence under the National Institute of Standards and Technology and appropriate \$20M for targeted research projects



[IAU Resolution 1 \(2024\): “Protection of the Dark and Quiet Sky from harmful interference by satellite constellations”](#)

Calls on the IAU to formally include the protection of the Dark and Quiet Sky as part of its mandate and support certain initiatives to limit satellite interference with astronomy



State Dept. [call for comments](#) on proposed ITAR restrictions/exceptions regarding satellite signature reduction

Supports an exception in the U.S. International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) permitting sharing of information among space companies regarding satellite brightness mitigation efforts

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compasse.aas.org/get-involved/for-media/

Light Pollution

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