

Speech O. Lemaitre – SSI event on STM 15/04/2021

Dear Mr Marinescu, honourable members of the Parliament, dear Ms Kavvada, dear colleagues

Thank you very much for your invitation to this event, which arrives perfectly on time with recent (and very positive) political declarations recognising STM as a key element of an ambitious European space policy, and with the recent launch of the pilot project launched by Mr Marinescu and two H2020-funded projects.

Complementing what Ms Kavvada just explained, there are several reasons why, in Industry we care about STM and why we recommend EU authorities to address this subject

- First, very obviously, a European STM approach is key **to safeguard the safety and sustainability of operating in increasingly congested Earth's orbits**; it can be seen as the European Green Deal applied to the space domain
 - Earth orbits are the places where we are actually delivering our products, if the orbits aren't safe anymore, our business – and Europe's institutional needs – will be compromised.
 - Tomorrow, all European flagship programmes, to include the European constellation for connectivity championed by Commissioner Breton, will need to be secured and enabled by STM capabilities
- Second, a European STM approach is also key **to safeguard our autonomy to operate in space**;
 - If Europe's non-dependence in space is undermined, so will be the opportunities of its industries; for instance, if we have to file for third party STM license or be restrained by ISO standards defined under the leadership of the US, without our contribution.
 - And, indeed, **there are non-European STM regulations in the making**, that will oblige European actors to comply with a set of guidelines and best practices defined by third parties; not contributing as equal partners to these regulations will weaken and limit the role of Europe in space, both for public and private actors.
- A European STM approach is key **because STM might represent a commercial opportunity** – this is at least the project pursued in the USA
 - And we wouldn't want this market to be exploited by non-European actors that are, right now, taking ahead

EU action is justified, and even urgently needed, in order to safeguard the autonomy of Europe, the capabilities of its European space sector and, at the same time, to create the conditions for the emergence of service markets.

By being proactive, the European Union will allow the European space sector to use commonly agreed rules and procedures in a fair way with regards to its competitors.

Furthermore, a multilateral approach with the active contribution of the EU would probably be seen as more neutral, and therefore more easily accepted, in the worldwide community than an exclusive US approach.

The European space industry recommend the EU to implement 4 lines of actions:

1) Coordinate EU Member States national efforts to address STM regulation and standardisation:

- Encourage the development of a legal framework at European level for STM; and the elaboration of this legal framework should allow a very early involvement of the European space industry – for

instance, very concretely, in the frame of the study awarded in the “pilot project” to Deloitte by the Commission where we consider that “interviewing” the European industry is not sufficient –; this early involvement is necessary because what is at stake is also the ability of the European space industry to compete on a level-playing field.

- A future EU regulatory framework shall also promote the collaboration with the European Cooperation for Space Standardization (ECSS), participating to the potential elaboration of international standards in the frame of ISO.

2) Create the conditions for an internal European market for SSA

- Timely and accurate SSA data, products and services is becoming an asset of strategic and economic significance. However, there is as of yet no commercially-driven market for SSA data, products and services. In the light of the increasing congestion of space and for instance the multiplication of constellations, a new generation of services in support of decision making for manoeuvres and collision avoidance actions is definitely needed
- Institutional anchor customers that would sustain the ability of industrial actors to develop SSA capabilities are considered an important step, both for answering the strategic needs of institutional customers and those of a future commercial market. This approach is not revolutionary, it is happening in the US.
- This will be an accessible business for European companies as long as SSA data is also accessible in autonomous and verifiable ways.

3) Set-up and support the establishment of funded programme lines to further develop European STM capabilities

- Space traffic monitoring capabilities currently available in Europe are not enough to answer the increasingly dense space traffic and are not adapted to deliver the level of performance required by a fully operational monitoring of space traffic
- More ambitious and better coordinated efforts are needed to further develop European STM capabilities.
- In particular, as STM is a capability with clear dual-use applications, synergies between civil STM initiatives and EDF projects should be actively encouraged to promote an approach maximising investments.

4) Promote a strong industrial involvement in the EU SST consortium

- The existing EU SST Consortium is an existing foundation of a future civil European SSA architecture. The efforts of the EU to involve European industry into the EUSST system development and operations are appreciated. These efforts could even be further promoted in the EU SST consortium by extending the current EU SST concept into European Open Architecture Data Repository (run under the umbrella of the EU SST), able to manage institutional as well as commercial data and services
- This would fulfil the requirement for autonomous surveillance according to European needs, as well as creating an anchor institutional market for European SST service and data providers, enhancing the overall effectiveness for all European “consumers” of SSA data and services.