

# Space Surveillance and Tracking (SST) e protezione planetaria:

un aggiornamento delle attività nazionali

Alberto Buzzoni

INAF – OAS, Bologna



**Space  
Situational  
Awareness  
(SSA)**

**Space Traffic  
Management  
(SMT)**

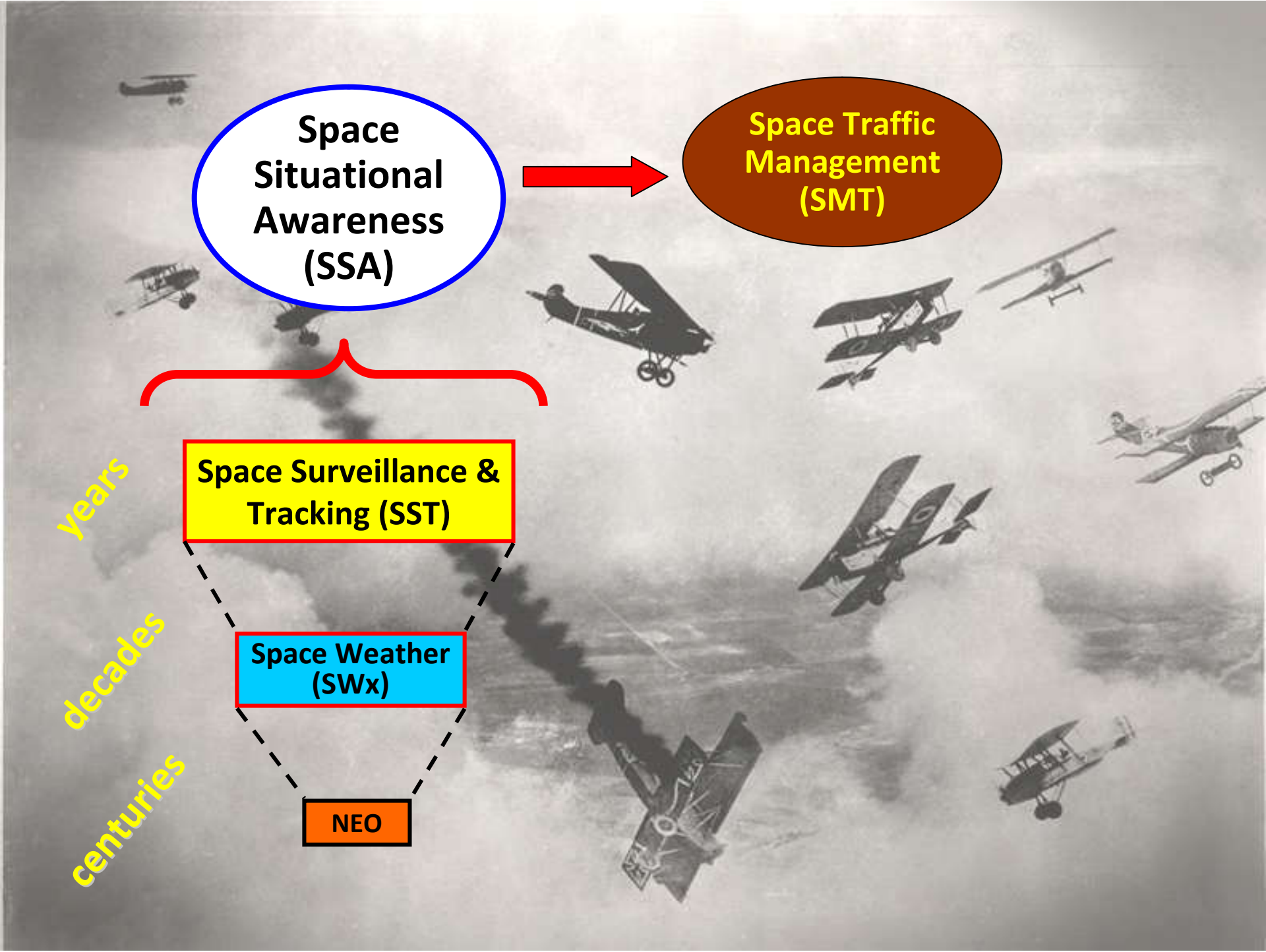


**Space Surveillance &  
Tracking (SST)**

**Space Weather  
(SWx)**

**NEO**

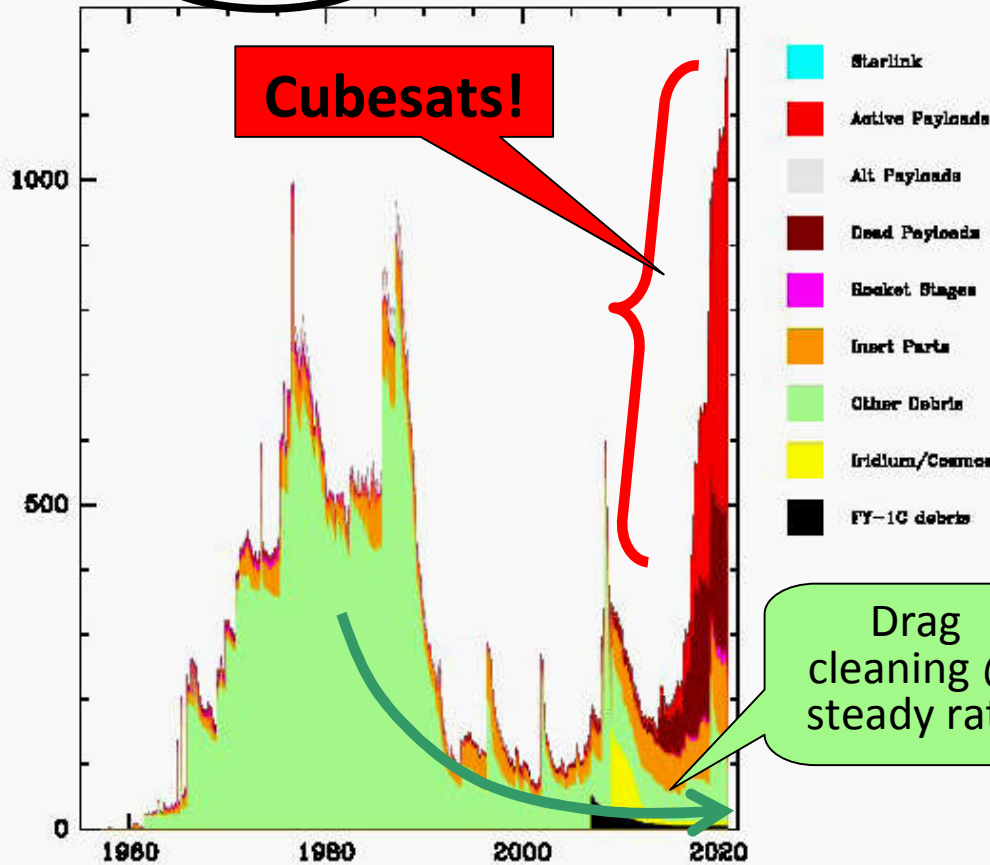
*years*  
*decades*  
*centuries*



# Bullets vs. Targets (LEO)

**Small** (< 100 kg)

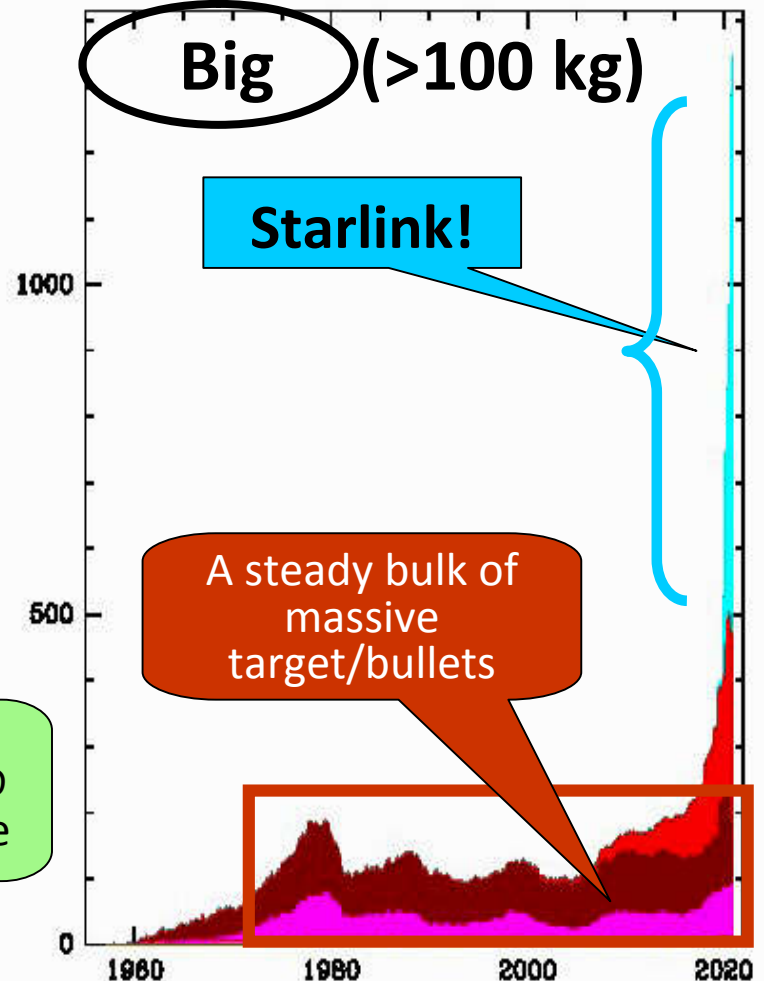
**Cubesats!**



**Bullets**

**Big** (>100 kg)

**Starlink!**



**Targets**

# Satellite Mega-constellations

if Altitude ↓

Impact for: manufacturer astronomers

Lifetime:



Link budget:



On-board power:



Latency time:



Brightness:



Crossing time:



Visibility timespan:



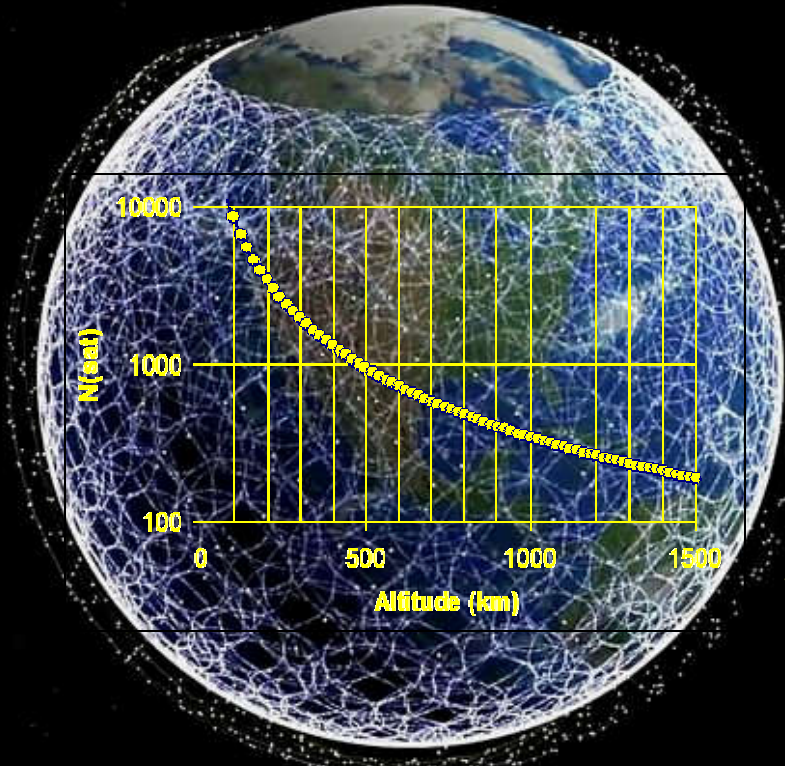
Number:



Cost x satellite:

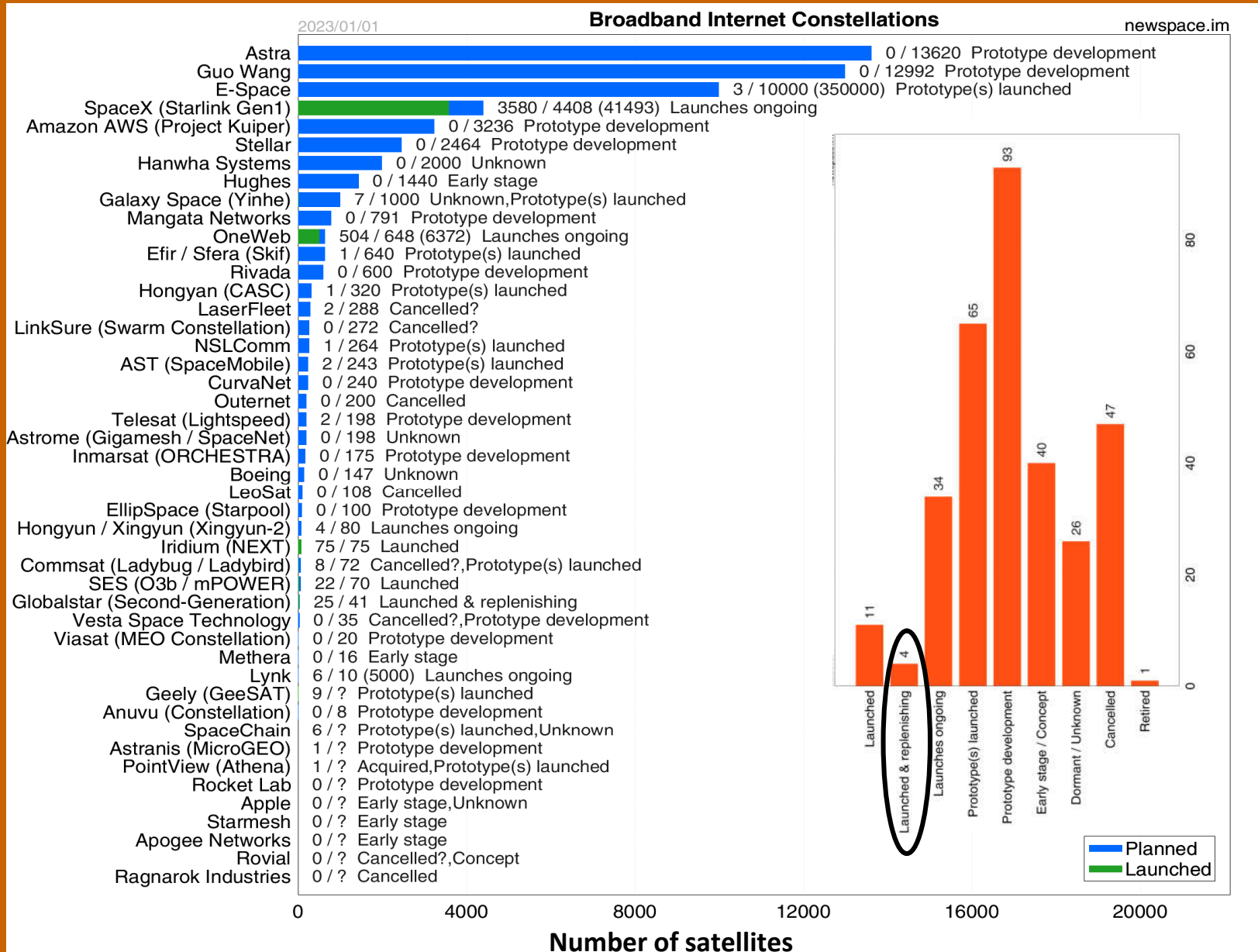


Cost x constl:



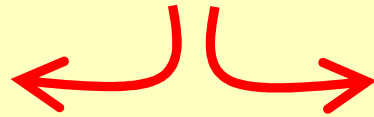
$$N_{sat} \propto \frac{1}{h(1+h)^{1/2} \arccos[1/(1+h)]}$$

# Satellite Mega-constellation: facts & status



# The “pros” of ....

optical tracking



radar tracking

$$\frac{D_{radio}}{D_{opt}} = \frac{v_{opt}}{v_{radio}} \cong \frac{10^{15}}{10^{10}} \Rightarrow 10^5$$

$$\frac{v}{c} = \frac{dv}{v}$$

- 1 A 1m optical telescope matches the angular resolution of a ~100 km radiotelescope/interferometer

- 1 Direct measurement of target (radial) velocity and distance (ranging), respectively through a Doppler shift and by pulsed echoes w/ typical accuracy of 50 meters

$$f_{radio} = \left(\frac{L_{in}}{d^2}\right) \left(\frac{1}{d^2}\right) \Rightarrow \begin{cases} f_{radio} \propto d^{-4} \\ f_{opt} \propto d^{-2} \end{cases}$$

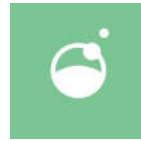
- 2 An optical telescope becomes more and more efficient than a bistatic antenna, with increasing distance
- 3 Operating costs for a 1m optical telescope are far less ( $\ll 1/20$ ) than costs for a LBI interferometer

- 2 Observations can be carried out under daylight
- 3 Wider Field-of-View, about a factor of 20-30 larger w/ respect to a telescope

An optical telescope is better higher than ~2000 km  
(H-LEO, MEO, GEO... NEO)

A radar/radiotelescope is better lower than ~2000 km  
(L-LEO, LEO)

# The emerging commercial players:



# LeoLabs

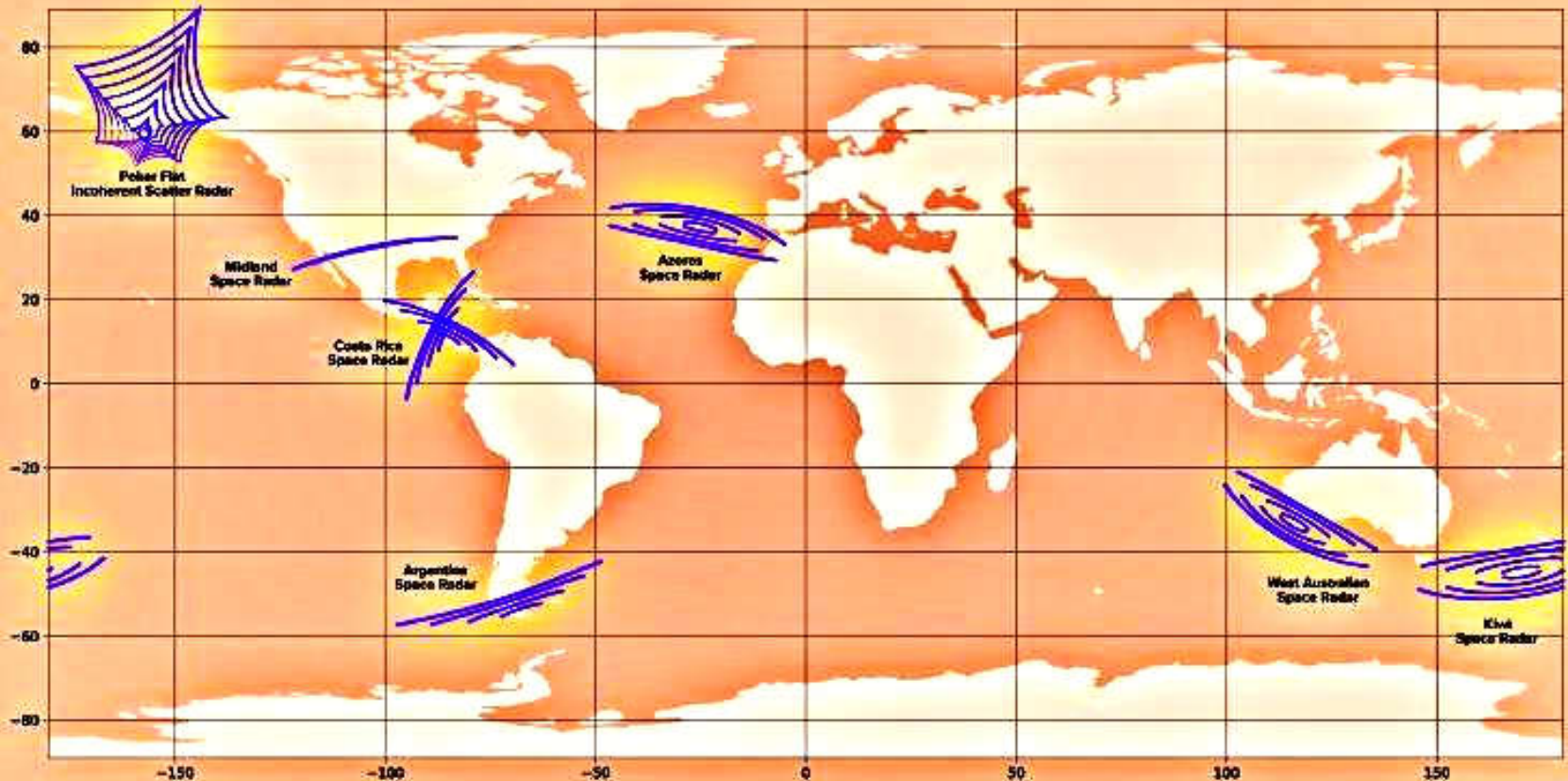
Founded in 2016

HQ: Menlo Park, CA, USA

Cap. Worth: **82 M\$**

Main stakeholders: Seraphim Space  
Airbus Venture  
Space Capital

**LeoLabs' global radar network coverage (March 2023)**





# The US SST telescope capabilities

## US SST telescope

@ Exmouth, W. Australia

Optics: 3.5 m f/1.0 (Mersenne-Schmidt)

Array of 12 (curved) CCD detectors:

Each CCD: 2k x 4k = 8 Mpx

Px size: 15  $\mu\text{m}$  (platescale: 0.9"/px)

FOV = 12 x 18 cm = 2.0° x 3.0°



## AEOS (Advanced Electro-Optical System)

@ Haleakala Obs. (Hawaii, USA)

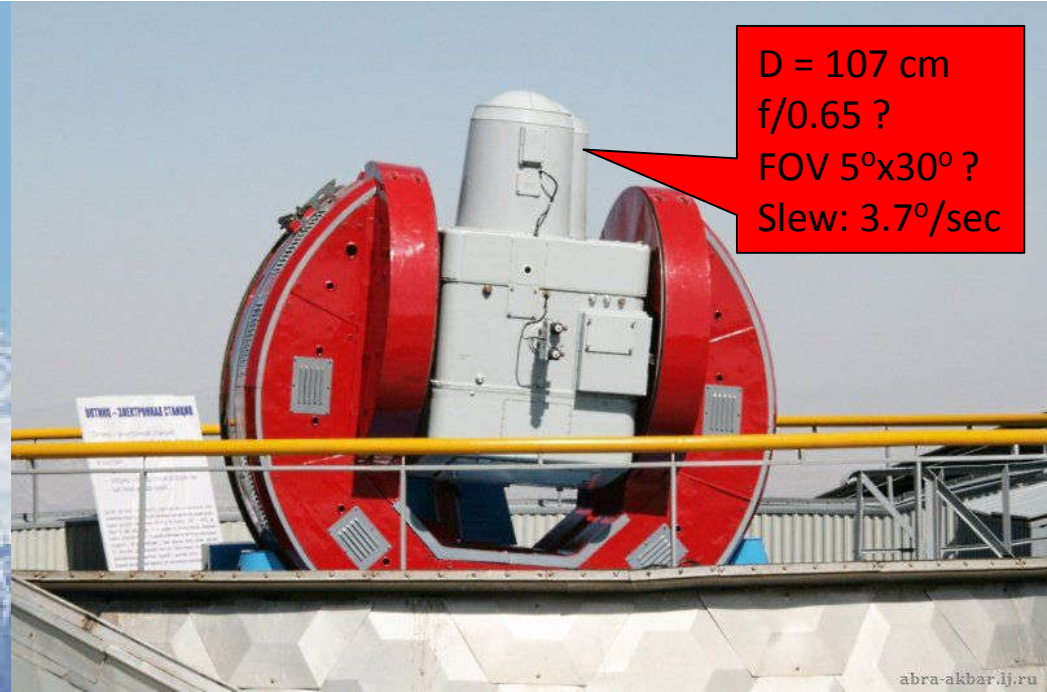
Optics: 3.67m f/200 (adaptive)

Slew: 20°/sec

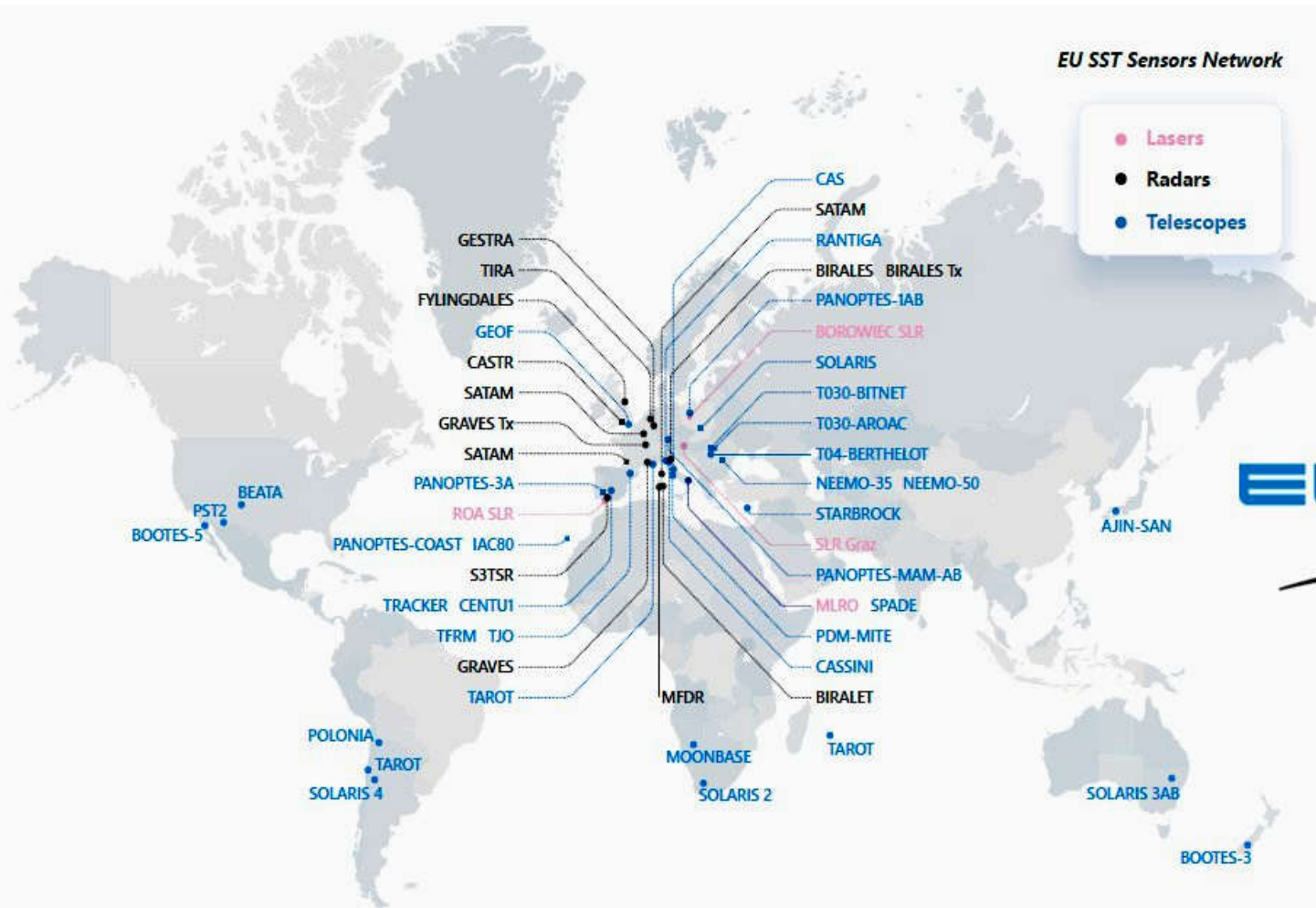
7 Coude' splitter



# The OKNO project (Tagikistan)



# The European Space Surveillance and Tracking Consortium (EU-SST)



as for 2022...

12 radars

35 telescopes

4 lasers



# SSA/SST coordination in Italy

## C-SSA @COA

Comando Operazioni Aerospaziali  
Poggio Renatico (FE)

## OCIS

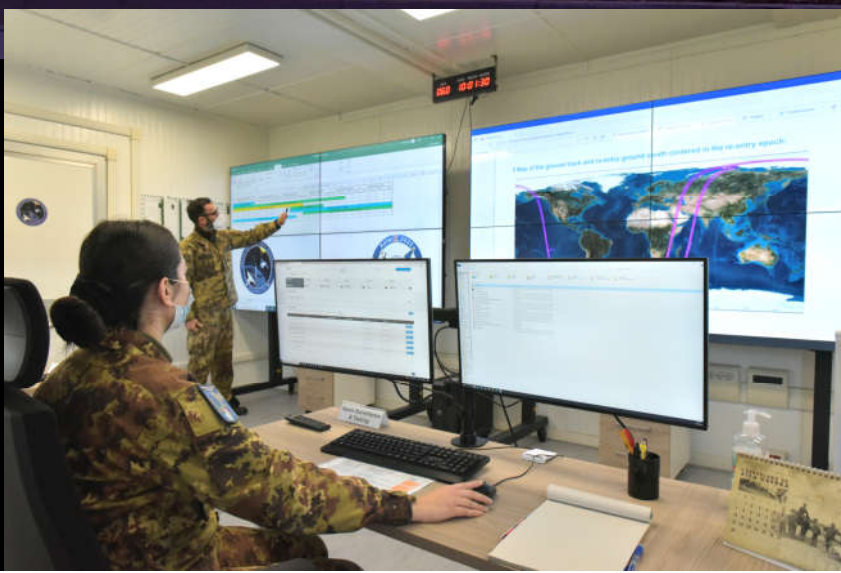
Organismo di Coordinamento e di Indirizzo delle attività relative all'iniziativa "Space Surveillance and Tracking Support" (SST) della Commissione Europea

**Agenzia Spaziale Italiana (ASI)**

**Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica (INAF)**

**Stato Maggiore Difesa (MOD)**

**Aeronautica Militare**



# The Who-is-who of SST in Italy

**PoliMi (DAER) – Milano**  
Camilla Colombo & Pierluigi Di Lizia  
Orbital dynamics & Kessler Syndrome

**INAF (OAS) – Bologna/Loiano**  
Alberto Buzzoni  
Optical tracking & study of space debris population

**CNR (ISTI) – Pisa**  
Luciano Anselmo & Carmen Pardini  
Physics of atmosphere re-entry

**CNR (IFAC & IMATI) UniPi – Fi/Pi/Mi**  
Alessandro Rossi, Elisa M. Alessi, G. Tommei  
Orbital dynamics & Kessler Syndrome

**INAF (OAC) – Cagliari/Selargius**  
Tonino Pisanu  
Radio/radar tracking of space debris

**Uni. “La Sapienza” (SIA) – Roma**  
Paolo Teofilatto  
Optical tracking & study of space debris population

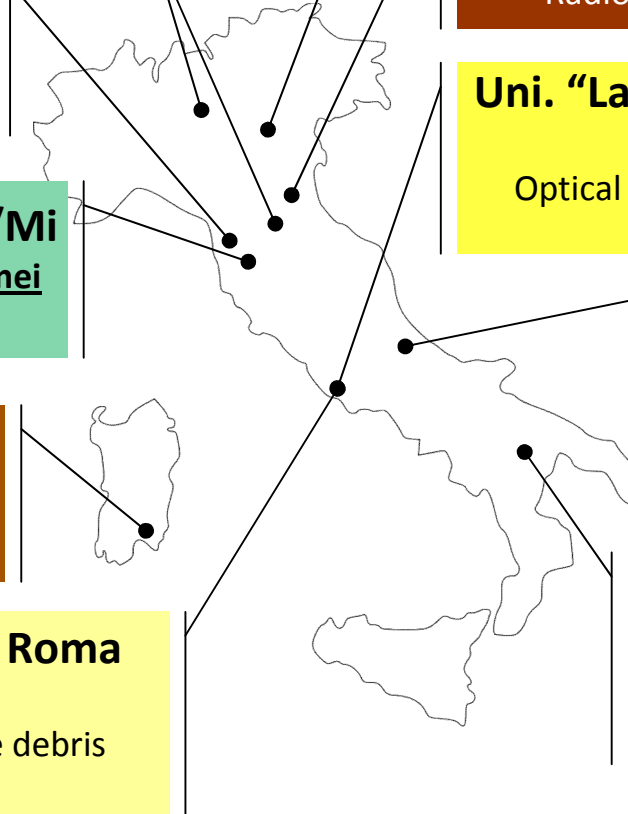
**UniPd (CISAS) – Padova**  
Alessandro Francesconi  
Physics of Hypervelocity impacts

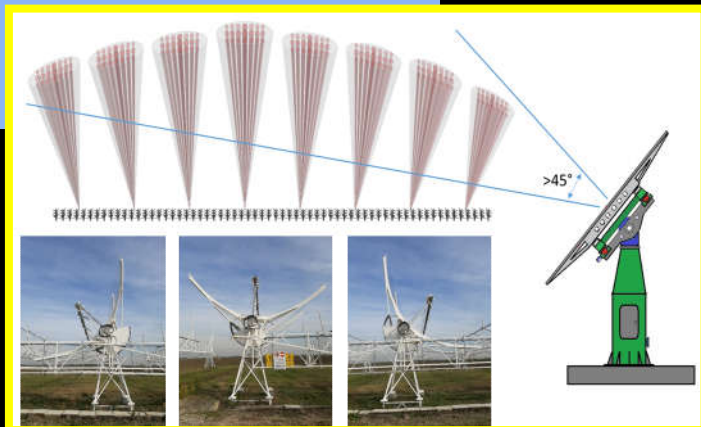
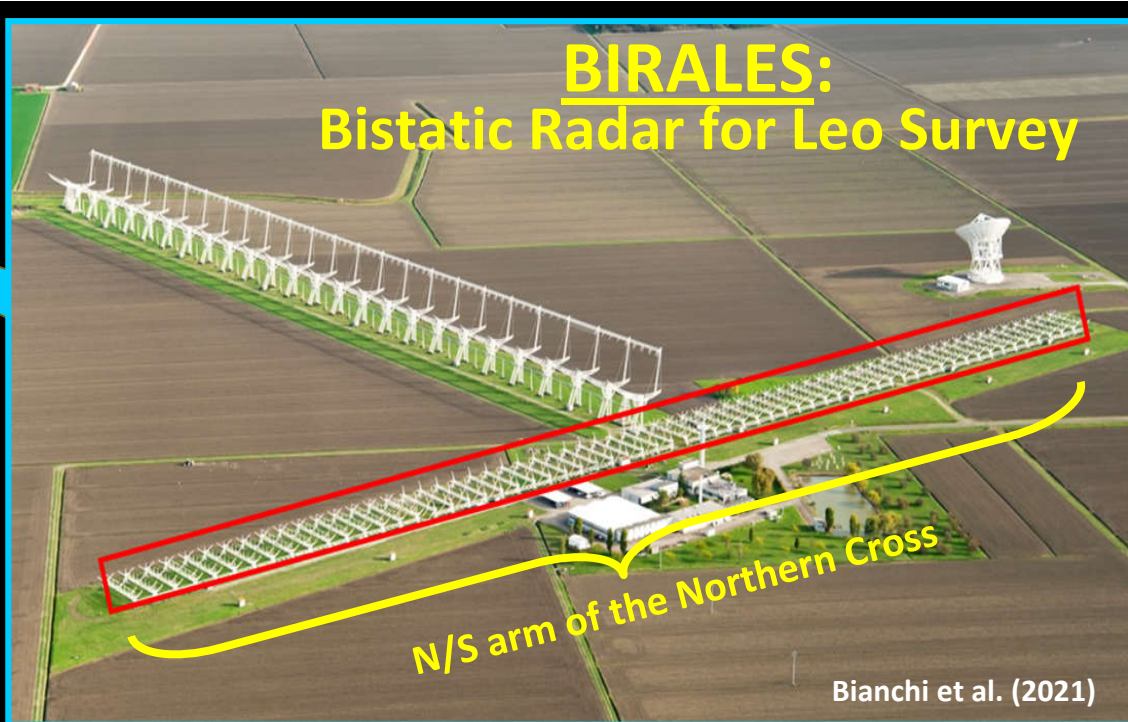
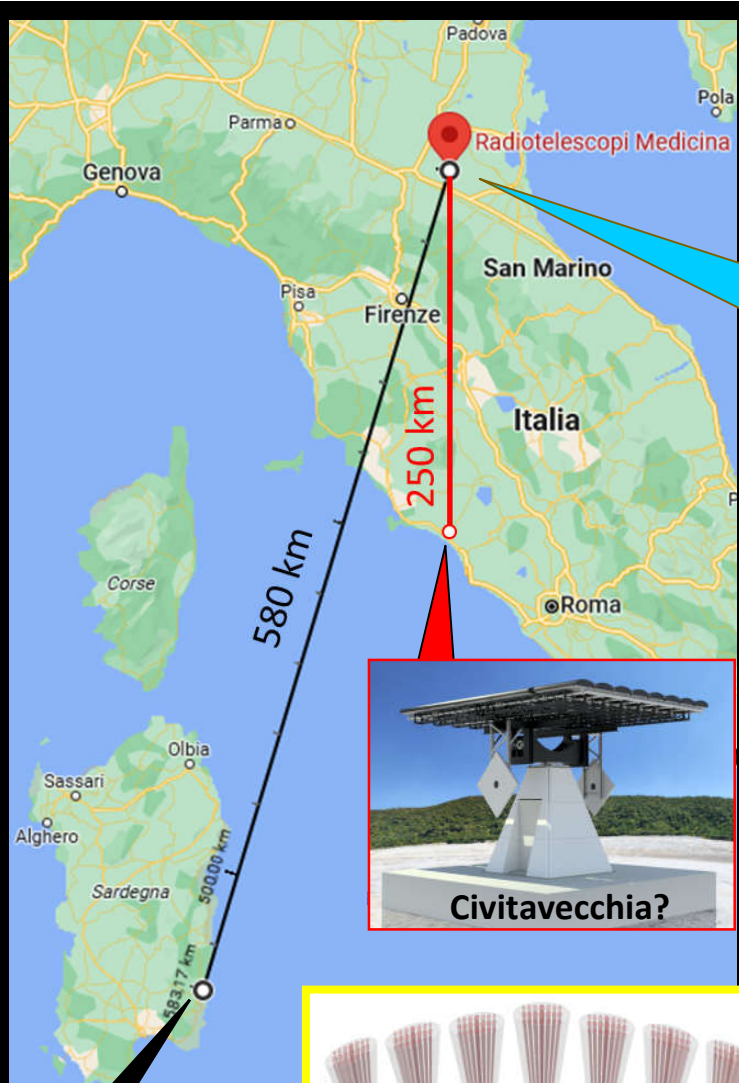
**INAF (IRA) – Bologna/Medicina**  
Germano Bianchi  
Radio/radar tracking of space debris

**Uni. “La Sapienza” (DIMA) – Roma**  
Fabrizio Piergentili  
Optical tracking & study of space debris population

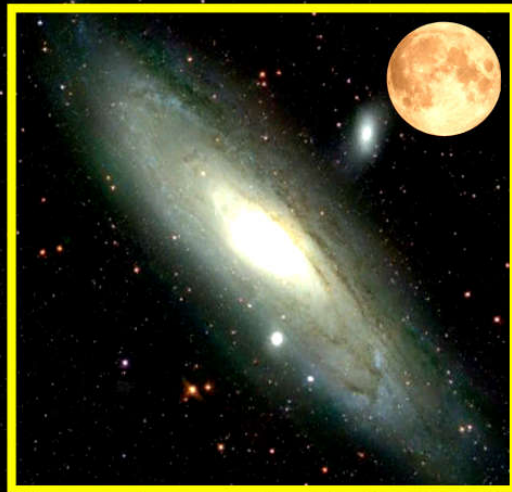
**INAF (OAB) – Teramo**  
Gaetano Valentini  
Optical tracking & study of space debris population

**ASI (Uff. SSA) – Rm & Mt**  
Cosimo Marzo  
SST (optical & laser) & technology





	Current configuration	2023 Upgrade
FOV	7°x7°	<b>7°x45°</b>
# Detectable obj.	196/week	4964/week
# Detectable crossings	233/week	9141/week
Sensitivity @1000 km	10cm	<b>5cm</b>
Angular accuracy	0.6 arcmin	0.06 arcmin
Ranging accuracy	32m	32m



2.5° x 2.5°

**T**elescope  
**A**rray  
**e**nabling  
**D**ebris  
**M**onitoring

4x telescopes  $\varnothing$  35 cm f/2.9

FOV = 20  $\square^{\circ}$   $V_{lim} \sim 18$

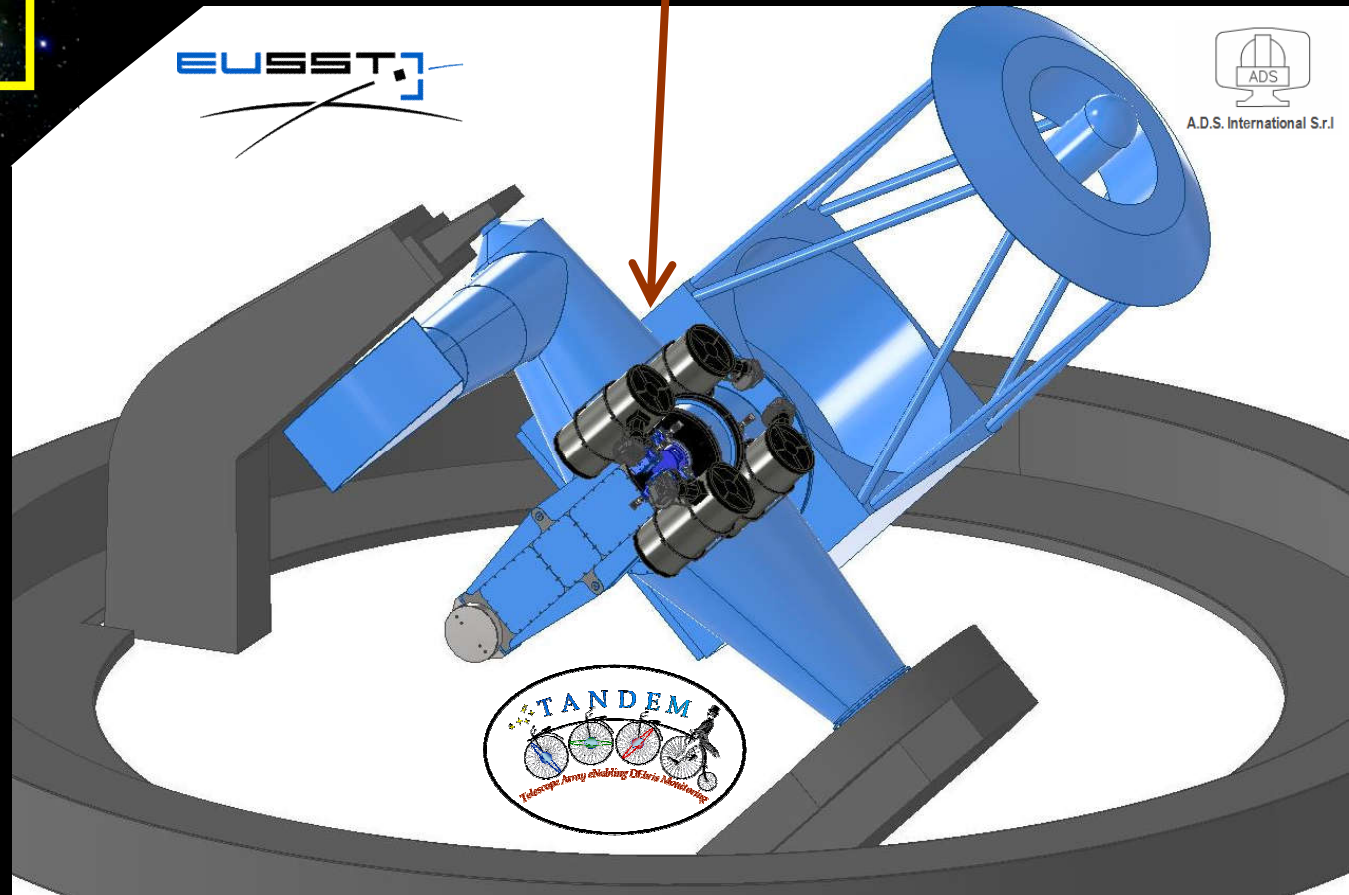
$\approx$

1 monolithic tel.  $\varnothing$  70 cm f/1.4

FOV = 2.5° x 2.5°  $V_{lim} \sim 20$



A.D.S. International S.r.l



# The Fly-Eye telescope(s)

- 1 telescope owned by **ESA (NEOSTEL)**  
[ready] → Mufara (PA)
- 1 telescope owned by **ASI**  
[TBD – 2028] → Matera (ASI)
- 3 telescopes by **ASI** via PNRR  
[TBD – 2027] → Chile/Australia/Arizona?
- Main contractor: OHB Italia

- Optics: 1.15 m f/1.7 (Schmidt)
- FOV: 6.7° x 6.7° (split into 16 CCDs)
- Slew: 7°/sec
- Mass: 23 tonnes

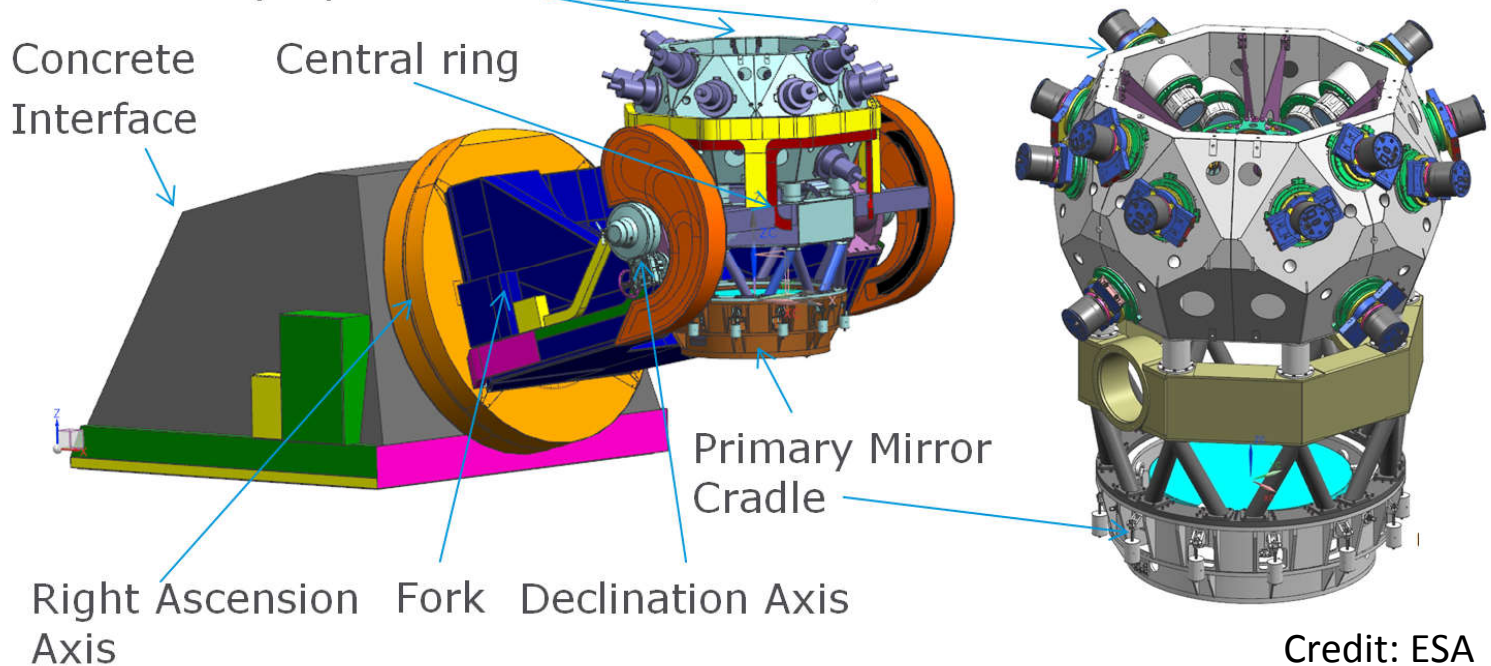
## Costs breakdown for NEOSTEL

Italy	35%
Romania	13%
Poland	13%
Germany	13%
Czech Rep	4%
Spain	7%
Norway	5%
Luxembourg	9%

-----  
Cost: 8.1 M€  
(2017)

Schmidt-type Telescope with Equatorial Mount

Secondary Optics with 16 Optical Tubes/Camera



Credit: ESA