
Characterization Track

If an NEO is detected to be a threat to the Earth, beyond a certain threshold, then the central facility will assemble an observer to be launched as soon as possible.

Alternatively, if the NEO scientific community identifies an NEO with particular scientific interest, then the observer spacecraft is assembled and launched at the optimal point to achieve a full scientific analysis.

Deflection Track

If an NEO is found to pose a significant threat, then a mitigation system will be launched. The mitigation system used can be of a variety of options. These options are shown here, but others could easily be included.

ANNOUNCEMENT

NASA MSFC is investigating hosting an interactive workshop on the issue of orbital debris. This workshop would entail collaboration between NASA design engineers and anyone with a concept for reducing the population or mitigating the debris that exists in low-Earth orbit. Participants would provide their own resources to produce a design that would be linked with MSFC's launch vehicle and spacecraft design tools to produce an integrated design concept. A workshop is anticipated in the fall 2009 timeframe for all participants to refine their concepts and comment on the other proposals.

For more information or to express your interest in this workshop, please e-mail: robert.b.adams@nasa.gov.

Acknowledgments


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