



Thursday 5th November 2015

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SERC's Role in the ACT's Space Economy

The Space Environment Research Centre (SERC) and ACT space industry representatives hosted the ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr at Mt Stromlo Observatory earlier this week to showcase the ACT's nation-leading role in the Australian space industry.

SERC participant organisations include the Australian National University, RMIT University, Electro Optic Space Systems, Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company, Optus Satellite Systems and The National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (Japan).

These organisations collaborate through SERC to create a world leader in space debris mitigation research. SERC research has already developed technology to more accurately predict the orbits of space debris to allow spacecraft to manoeuvre away from potential collisions with debris. Over the next few years SERC aims to develop technology to manoeuvre the space debris itself using ground-based lasers.

Based at Mount Stromlo Observatory, SERC was created in 2014 to address the space debris risk to the global economy. Because the space applications threatened by space debris have a commercial value exceeding \$1 trillion, those solutions represent a commercial opportunity, and SERC is already spinning off those opportunities to its participants.

SERC Chief Executive Officer, Dr Ben Greene said "the ACT is leading the way in space debris research and with recent announcements including the initial funding for the Space Research and Innovation Hub and the Federal Government announcing a major review of the regulations governing space activity, Canberra truly has the potential to become the centre of the national space economy."

"At SERC, our primary task is to preserve the space environment for future generations. This task includes developing and enhancing the human resource pool of space technologists available in future to ensure that the critical mass of skills assembled by SERC can be sustained in the future."

"We are leveraging world-leading innovation to develop solutions in the form of commercial opportunities, stimulating industries, jobs and prosperity."

Media Liaison

Ellen Schwab, Communications Officer, ellenschwab@serc.org.au m. 0427 250 183



SERC Participants represent local, national and international leaders in space debris research. Participant organisations include The Australian National University, RMIT University, Electro Optic Space Systems, Lockheed Martin, Optus Satellite Systems and The National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (Japan).