

AI Could Make Space Cleanup Profitable

A new economic model is emerging for orbital sustainability

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THE DATA

30%

Reduction in debris risk

By 2030, AI-assisted orbital debris tracking could reduce collision risks by this much.

Recent simulations by MIT's Space Systems Laboratory show that AI-driven orbital debris tracking can reduce the probability of satellite collisions by up to 30% by 2030. This is a critical step toward sustainable space operations, especially as commercial satellites proliferate. The economic value of preventing just one major collision could exceed $10 billion.



01

AI Is Rewriting Orbital Economics

The economic model for orbital debris cleanup is shifting from a public good to a revenue-generating sector. AI-powered satellites can now identify, track, and catalog space junk in real time. These capabilities allow private firms to offer debris mitigation services, monetizing the safety of orbital assets. This is a new class of commercial risk management that’s directly tied to the value of satellite constellations.



02

A New Market for AI-Powered Space Sustainability

The emergence of AI-driven orbital debris tracking creates a potential $5 billion market by 2035. Satellite operators will increasingly rely on AI platforms to protect their assets, driving demand for precision tracking systems. This market is not just about avoiding collisions — it’s also about reducing the long-term costs of space infrastructure. The economic incentive is now strong enough that major aerospace firms are investing in AI-driven sustainability solutions.

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