

# Orbital Debris Remediation Summit *Queenstown, NZ*

February 2024



# Orbital Debris Remediation Summit

*LeoLabs and Secure World Foundation Co-Sponsored*

- Assemble like-minded individuals and organizations to discuss how to “make remediation real”
  - Four sessions to determine hurdles in four areas
    - Legal
    - Programmatic
    - Economic
    - Diplomatic
- Attended by nearly 30 individuals from NZSA, JAXA, law firms, space insurance companies, and debris remediation companies

# Major Takeaways...

- Risk from massive derelicts potentially contributing to a rapidly growing space collision risk is not clear enough to motivate action/funding. The ADR community needs to immediately focus on better communicating the risk.
- There was consensus concern that possibly only a major debris-generating collision would stimulate true international resolve and commitment for debris remediation missions, but we should still work on developing solutions whether the worst-case happens.
- There is still a perception that the technology is not ready, thus there is an immediate need for an ADR demonstration mission to remove multiple space objects to prove that is not the case.
- The biggest diplomatic challenge is convincing the three major spacefaring countries (the United States, Russia, and China) who are responsible for 90% of the risk to begin remediating their own large debris objects, particularly SL-16 rocket bodies in the 800 to 1000 km altitude range. One solution may be to develop protocols for other actors to get their consent to remove these objects and global funding strategies to share the cost burden.
- Without funding for ADR, or other debris remediation missions, the likelihood for long-term space sustainability will be curtailed.

# Day Two – Visit to LeoLabs Radar Site (Otago region)

