



25 August 2020

Saber Astronautics to Start Space Traffic services for the Pacific Region.

Sydney and Adelaide, Australia: Saber Astronautics led space the Space Traffic monitoring cell for the Pacific region as part of joint civil-military space operations exercises with the US military.

The event, called the “Sprint Advanced Concept Training” (SACT) is a United States Space Force run event to test the combat readiness of its space forces. The exercise uses live data from real-world, commercial, and defense sensors to track objects in space. SACT also includes a civil space component which allows military members to practice working with civilian and commercial space operators in what is early emergence of a civil space traffic management community.

Saber Astronautics provided leadership for the Pacific region from their Mission Control Center, called the “Responsive Space Operations Center” (RSOC) which combines a range of new technologies to support decision making for large numbers of spacecraft. Saber’s RSOC program was recently selected by the Australian Space Agency in an open tender for its Mission Control Centre in Adelaide, which is funded by the Australian Space Agency’s International Space Investment: Expand Capability grant opportunity.

During the event, the RSOC conducted civil space traffic management while receiving additional requests from the military teams. The RSOC then tasked commercial sensor networks from companies from the USA, Japan, and Australia, and analysed changes to orbiting satellites. They received data from sensors, compared to known and expected satellite positions, and identified maneuvers for live spacecraft.

Saber’s CEO, Dr Jason Held explains, “SACT explored our actions as a national civil Mission Control Centre if there was a war in space. Now we’re not space warriors, we’re more space traffic cops as the RSOC’s first mission is safety of flight. But as a national centre we also have a relationship to government so it is important to explore how we can work with other agencies and the broader multinational community if something goes wrong.”

Historically, SACT was a USA only exercise, however in 2019 Saber’s international presence allowed integration with the U.S. Space Operations Center to Australia providing “follow the sun” 24-hour operational readiness from Saber’s RSOCs. The “civilian SACT” formed soon afterwards with companies from the USA, France, and Australia leading three regional cells each responsible for their 8-hour windows. The USA recently moved the space traffic management mission to the Department of Commerce, to prepare for this growth.

Now with the space industry tripling in size over the next decade there is increased interest in forming a global space traffic management capability, and the companies involved in SACT could form a core for such a global system. “We’re about to leave the barnstorming era of the space industry, and like the aviation sector, the space sector will also need cooperation, coordination, and interaction between civil and military stakeholders worldwide.”





- END -

For any enquiries, please contact:

Saber Astronautics

Media

720-589-6086 (USA)

+61 472 569 657 (AU)

media@saberastro.com

About Saber Astronautics

Saber Astronautics' mission is the democratization of space, reducing barriers to space flight, and making space as easy as driving a car. Saber uses next-generation space mission control software developed by an experienced team of space operations, systems control, UX, and robotics experts. Saber brings together the latest techniques in human factors, artificial intelligence, and dynamic 3D data visualization to make it easy for spacecraft operators to monitor, fly, and rapidly diagnose faults in spacecraft systems.

For more information, please visit www.saberastro.com

###

