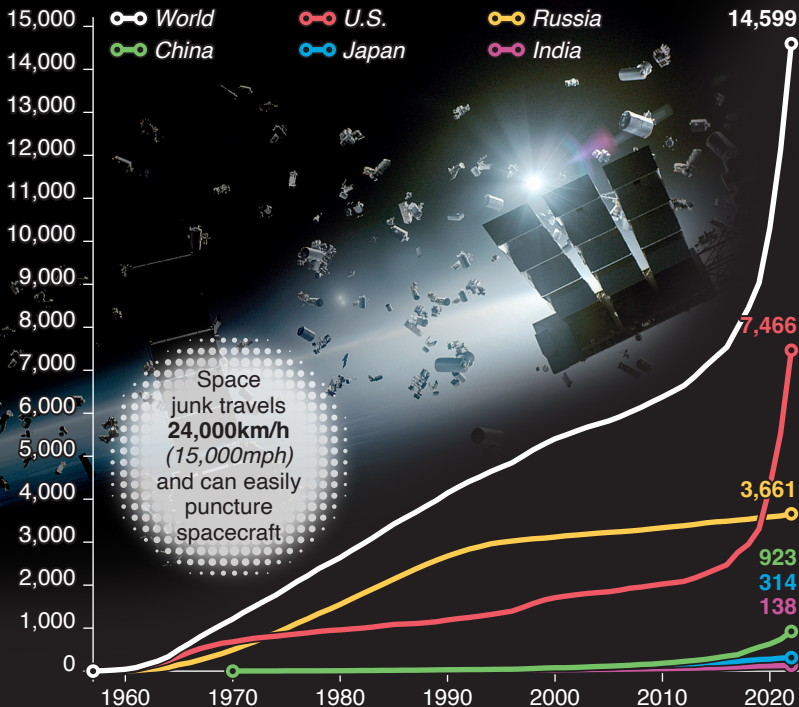


# Space junk threat to future missions

Fast-moving space junk – which ranges from defunct satellites and rocket stages down to rogue nuts, bolts and flecks of paint – is becoming increasingly problematic for space travel

## CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF OBJECTS LAUNCHED INTO SPACE\*



Sources: Freethink, Forbes, Our World in Data (United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, 2023), LeoLabs. Picture: LeoLabs. \*Includes satellites, probes, landers, crewed spacecrafts, and space station flight elements launched into Earth orbit or beyond, 1957-2022

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