SPACE CYBERSECURITY WEEKLY WATCH

W16

April 14 – 20, 2026

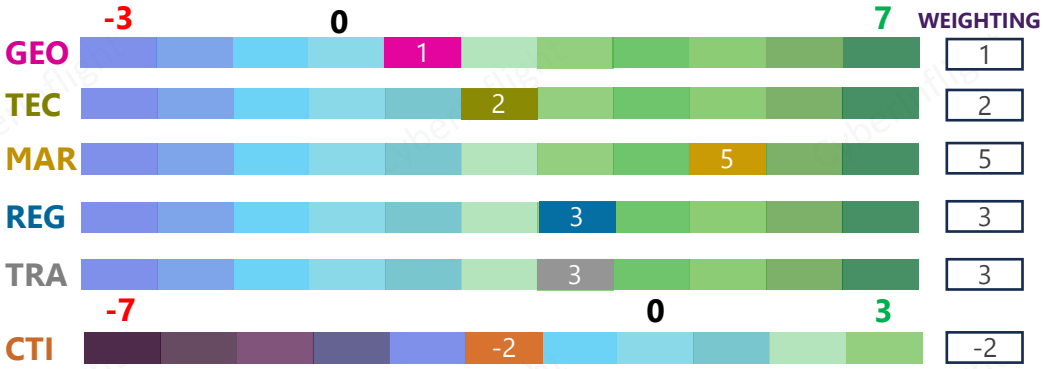
Timeframe: Weekly
# of articles identified: 28
Est. time to read: 50 minutes

Articles, company's communications, whitepapers, academic works, podcast, and sources not to be missed on the topic of space cybersecurity over a specified timeframe.

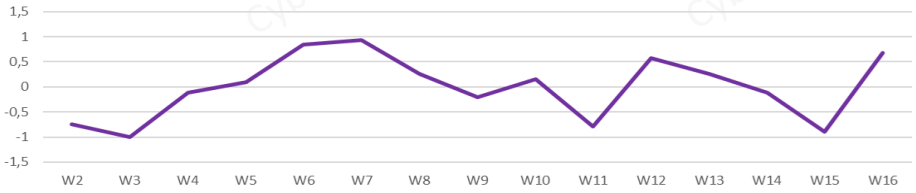
GEOPOLITICS
TECHNOLOGY
MARKET & COMPETITION
REGULATION
TRAINING & EDUCATION
THREAT INTELLIGENCE
IMPORTANT NEWS

RISC Score Assessment

Overview & Resilience Index for Space Cybersecurity (RISC)



RISC Score evolution in 2026



The RISC score for this watch is 0.68, up 1.58 from last week, driven by active geopolitical and market news and strengthened by regulatory updates.

This week, on the geopolitical side, the **Space Force has released 2 highly anticipated future-casting documents that describe what the service expects the space environment to look like in 2040** and lay out the force structure it believes it will need to operate in that environment.

On the regulatory side, the U.S. Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee passed **bipartisan legislation introduced by 2 U.S. Senators to help commercial satellite owners and operators defend against growing cybersecurity threats.**

On the market intel side, **Bulgarian companies are participating in 8 of 57 defense projects approved under the European Defense Fund**. The total value of the projects involving Bulgarian participation is around €319m, while EU grants are expected to reach approximately €244m.

On the threat intel side, an unknown hacker group on a monitored dark web forum is advertising the **sale of alleged data from multiple sensitive departments and research institutes within the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA)**. The group, claiming to be transitioning to a more sophisticated operation, is seeking serious buyers, such as think tanks, and is offering samples. Among the alleged victims are the PLA's Institute of Satellite Early Warning Technology and the Space Engineering Research Institute of the Strategic Support Force of the PLA.

On the technological side, **Thales secures military navigation in electronic warfare environments with the TopStar Smart Receiver**.

On the training and education side, **Kookmin University and Arion demonstrate a quantum-secure satellite link with Post-Quantum technologies**.

GEOPOLITICS

[redacted]

Space Force Lays Out Vision For What It Thinks It Needs in 2040

The Space Force on April 15 released two highly anticipated future-casting documents that describe what the service expects the space environment to look like in 2040 and lay out the force structure it believes it will need to operate in that environment. **#SpaceForce #Vision2040**

Source: AirAndSpaceForceMagazine

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

REGULATION

Commerce Committee Passes Peters and Cornyn Bipartisan Legislation to Protect Commercial Satellites from Cybersecurity Threats

The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee passed bipartisan legislation introduced by U.S. Senators Gary Peters (D-MI) and John Cornyn (R-TX) to help commercial satellite owners and operators defend against growing cybersecurity threats. Commercial satellites support GPS navigation, weather forecasts, agriculture, scientific research, global communications, and more. The senators' Satellite Cybersecurity Act of 2025 would help secure these critical satellites against attacks by hackers, foreign adversaries, and cybercriminals that could cause serious disruptions to our economic and national security. The legislation now advances to the full Senate for consideration. **#SatelliteCybersecurityAct #US**

Source: Gary Peters

REGULATION

[redacted]

[redacted]

MARKET & COMPETITION

[redacted]

[redacted]

€300m: EU Defense Fund Backs Several Bulgarian Companies in Cyber, Space, and AI Projects

Bulgarian companies are participating in eight of 57 defense projects approved under the European Defense Fund, according to data released by the European Commission. The total value of the projects involving Bulgarian participation is around €319m, while EU grants are expected to reach approximately €244m. Across the bloc, the Commission is financing €1.07bn in projects to strengthen defense capabilities by 2030, including artificial intelligence, cyber defense, space systems, unmanned technologies, and naval and air modernization. The initiatives span research, prototype development, system integration and testing, with some targeting drone countermeasures, satellite surveillance, and cybersecurity resilience. **#Funding #EuropeanCommission**

Source: Novinite

THREAT INTELLIGENCE

Alleged Data Breach of PLA's Institute of Satellite Early Warning Technology and the Space Engineering Research Institute of the Strategic Support Force of the PLA

A hacker group on a dark web forum is advertising the sale of alleged "fresh" data from multiple sensitive departments and research institutes within the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA). The group, claiming to be transitioning to a more sophisticated operation, is seeking serious buyers such as think tanks, offering samples and accepting escrow payments, indicating a professional approach to illicit data monetization. **#PLA #DataBreach**

Source: SOCRadar

TECHNOLOGY

Thales secures military navigation in electronic warfare environments with the TopStar Smart Receiver

Thales launches the TopStar Smart Receiver, a three-in-one ultra-compact solution that provides land forces with resilient positioning, navigation, and timing capabilities while maintaining radio communications in increasingly contested electronic warfare environments. TopStar Smart Receiver can be integrated into land vehicles, drones, and munitions. **#TopStar #Thales**

Source: Thales

[redacted]

TRAINING & EDUCATION

[redacted]

Kookmin University and Arion demonstrate a quantum-secure satellite link

A research team at Kookmin University has demonstrated a next-generation secure communications system that integrates low-earth-orbit satellite links with post-quantum cryptography. **#Korea #PostQuantum**

Source: TheKoreaTimes

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