

Chapter 4

Methods, Means and Governance of NEO Observation



Peter Vereš and Nikola Schmidt

4.1 Introduction

This chapter introduces discovery and observation techniques for NEOs. The current state of all important detection and characterization projects are discussed in detail. In addition to the dominant contribution of the United States, programs in China and Russia and the global collaboration of scientific epistemic communities are explored. The dynamics of relations between these communities and national space programs' policies will be studied, including actors such as the International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN), the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG), the B612 Foundation, Planetary Resources, and other entities involved or interested in Solar system mapping. The chapter describes three categories of stakeholders involved in the planetary defense effort. First, entities represented by private driven efforts, including epistemic communities of scientists, astronauts, engineers etc. Second, entities represented by national agencies. Third, entities represented by international organizations trying to merge all the efforts into a united endeavor.

P. Vereš (✉)

Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Cambridge, MA, USA

e-mail: pveres@cfa.harvard.edu

N. Schmidt

Department of Political Science, Institute of Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

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