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The Future of Military Satellites

Current plans call for the United States and other nations to launch 308 military satellites over the next decade, about one-fifth of all new satellites to be put in orbit during that period. The largest single group of new military satellites comprises those used for reconnaissance and surveillance. It will command the largest market value—\$16.3 billion, out of a total of nearly \$35 billion. (See table.)

The US will dominate the field, launching roughly half of all military satellites. DoD now launches 10 to 11 satellites each year. That rate is projected to increase. Today, Russia launches about 15 satellites annually, but that number is expected to decline. The rest of the market includes Europe, China, Israel, and Japan, plus a few smaller nations.

The Outlook for Military Satellites: 1999–2008

New Military Satellites	Number	Market Value
	Worldwide	(in Billions)
Reconnaissance/Surveillance	85	\$16.3
Technology Development	73	\$1.4
Navigation	51	\$1.9
Communications	50	\$4.9
Early Warning	43	\$9.6
Meteorological/Earth Resources	6	\$0.5
Total	308	\$34.6

Source: Marco Caceres, Teal Group, "The Military Satellite Market," *Aerospace America*, June 1999.