

ESA Star Tracker developments in the recent past and present, main achievements and future developments

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In the last fifteen years, the Star Tracker (STR) products have evolved from CCD detectors to the use of APS detectors, from use on SCI and LEO platforms to be used also in GEO orbits, i.e on a major part of ESA missions, having a large harvest of years in orbit and resulting experience as well as demonstrating the improvement in terms of robustness and performance accuracy. European STR products are leading a growing and worldwide market, with best-in-class products, being the key AOCS sensor for a large number of spacecrafts. This presentation will summarise the achievements of the recent STR development supported by the European Space Agency; current activities and major trends explored in ESA R&D roadmap for STR will also be highlighted.