**Major Findings Summarization**

1. **How many satellites do the top 10 countries have in orbit?**

According to the data the top 10 countries are USA, China, Russia, United Kingdom, Japan, Multinational, India, ESA, Canada, and Germany. USA is leading the group with 1406 satellites currently in orbit. Following is China (375), Russia (170), United Kingdom (129), Japan (80), Multinational (64), India (58), ESA (53), Canada (39), Germany (33).

1. **How many satellites are used for military vs. commercial purposes?**

There are 357 satellites used for military purposes and 1514 used for commercial purposes. This makes up 19.1% of satellites being used for military and 80.9% being used for commercial purposes.

1. **At what altitudes do most satellites orbit?**

The following classes of orbit orbit at varying altitudes: LEO orbits at an altitude of 88, GEO orbits at an altitude of 50, Elliptical orbits at an altitude of 8, and MEO orbits at altitude of 5.

1. **What activities are most satellites involved with?**

Most of the satellites are involved with communications and earth observation activities. Making up 50.6% involved in communications and 29.1% involved in earth observation.

1. **Launch locations and number of launches per site.**

We found significant differences in particular launch sites that launched many more satellites than other sites. According to the ‘Launches per Launch Site’ bar chart, **Cape Canaveral** launched significantly more satellites than other sites leading with 778. Following is **Baikonur Cosmodrome** with 337, **Guiana Space Center** with 276, and **Satish Dhawan Space Centre** with 273.

1. **Satellites launched since inception.**

The data shows beginning in 1974 one satellite was launched with few satellites being launched in the years thereafter. However, launches have increased exponentially since that time with the latest being 561 launches in the year 2020.

1. **Which contractors are involved in satellite launches?**

According to the data, SpaceX contractor is involved in 39.2% of satellite launches. Planet Labs, Inc., Space Systems/Loral, China Academy of Space Technology (CAST), Thales Alenia Space, Spire Global, Thales Alenia Space/Orbital ATK, OneWeb Satellites/Airbus, Boeing Satellite Systems, Orbital Sciences Corp. are also contractors involved in satellite launches.